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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Letter dated 3 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Syria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic on the Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Syrian Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, presented to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories during its visit to Damascus, Syria, from 22 May to 25 May 1991.

I should be grateful if this statement were circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 73 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Dia-Allah EL-FATTAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic presented to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

The Israeli occupation authorities are continuing their flagrant and deliberate violations of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and other international covenants. Furthermore, they continue to flout resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the relevant specialized agencies and to defy the entire international community, in occupied Palestine, the Syrian Golan and southern Lebanon alike.

The Syrian Golan, occupied since 1967, has continued to be subjected to the comprehensive and declared strategy of aggression pursued by the Israeli authorities, who maintain that the Golan is an inseparable part of Israel. Their activities, both open and covert, designed to Judaize and annex the Golan and strip its Syrian Arab population of their ethnic character and their history, have led to the continued establishment and expansion of settlements and the introduction of new immigrants from all parts of the world. This has become evident in the recent policy of bringing in vast numbers of Soviet refugees to the occupied territories, with a view to changing the composition of the population of the region and destroying its economic structure, expropriating its water resources and attempting to modify its socio-cultural characteristics and efface the identity of the indigenous inhabitants. They are thereby violating United Nations resolutions, specifically Security Council resolution 497 (1981), adopted unanimously on 17 December 1981, and the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 February 1982 at its ninth emergency special session (ES-9/1) and reaffirmed since then at every regular session of the General Assemby.

In the face of these practices, our Syrian Arab people of the Golan have risen up with laudable bravery to resist the occupation, reaffirming on every occasion their attachment and allegiance to their Syrian Arab homeland, rejecting the occupation and the decision to impose Israeli laws and Israeli identity, defying the repressive Israeli authorities until the territory of the Golan is fully liberated and also giving their support and aid to the heroic intifadah of the Palestinian Arab people. Popular committees have been set up in order to receive donations in cash and in kind, thereby making it possible to send funds and large quantities of food and clothing by various means to their brothers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. As a result of their stand of solidarity with their Palestinian brothers, the inhabitants

of the Golan have been exposed to brutal sanctions on the part of the occupation authorities.

The valiant resistance of the Arab people in the occupied Arab territories has led the occupiers to step up their means of repression there. They have escalated the "iron fist" policy and the practices of bone-breaking, murder, deportation, the destruction of houses and curfews lasting for days, a policy which constitutes a grave violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, war crimes and the crime of genocide, which are subject to international sanctions. The world has witnessed these crimes, which have revealed that Zionist racism and its hatred of other peoples in general and of the Arab people in particular are what lies behind the commission of all these crimes, as an embodiment of its venom, the effects of which have long been apparent in many countries of the world. Nothing demonstrates that better than the statement made by Knesset Member Rehavam Ze'evi on 24 October 1989, when he said that one Jew is equal to a thousand Arabs. When asked whether he was ready to amend this statement, he said: "Yes, I am prepared to amend it, as follows: one Jew, 10,000 Arabs." These barbarous words were accompanied by an increase in the participation of Zionist settlers in crimes against Arab citizens in the occupied territories, under the protection of the Israeli occupation forces. The racism, aggression and anti-Arab thrust of these crimes were greater than those characterizing the measures taken by the Israeli occupation forces.

The long series of terrorist acts committed by the Israeli occupation forces brings to mind the savage and inhuman acts perpetrated by the racist Pretoria régime against the people of South Africa and the Nazi crimes committed against civilians in Europe during the Second World War. Further proof of that is the statement made by the Israeli Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Binyamin Netanyahu, before a meeting of students on 19 November 1989, in which he urged the need for a collective expulsion of the Arabs, and also the recent statements made by Israeli Minister Ariel Sharon on the need to settle Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories in the place of the Arab population. Here we must warn once again of the dangers of the continuation of these practices, in view of the explosive situation in the region and the threat which it presents to international peace and security, which are entering a new stage now that confrontation and tension in the world have abated and an attempt is being made to establish the new international community based on the principles of justice, equality and fairness.

1. Policy of annexation and settlement

Since Israel's occupation of the Syrian Golan in 1967, there has been a continuous policy of occupation aimed at annexing the Golan and Judaizing it by encouraging settlement there. In December 1981, Israel enacted a law imposing Israeli laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan and, on 12 February 1982, issued an order requiring the inhabitants of the Golan to carry Israeli identity cards.

Among the practices that most closely affect the national sentiments of the Golan Arabs is the Israeli authorities' attempt to impose mandatory conscription on youths there. The youths have just said: "We are Syrian Arabs, and the Golan Heights are occupied territory. It is not reasonable for us to serve in an army that is occupying our country". This issue is still alive and has been from the end of May 1990 up to the present. The occupation authorities are still applying pressure to the youths of the Golan to force them to abandon their national affiliation. This is totally contrary to all international laws and customs.

On the ruins of 147 Syrian Arab villages in the Syrian Golan which Israel has destroyed and of which only Majdal Shams, Mas'adah, Buq'ata, Ayn Qunyah and Al-Fajr remain, Israel has established a network of 43 settlements, comprising agricultural, industrial and tourist projects aimed at exploiting the wealth and resources of the region in order to annex and Judaize it, and it is in the process of completing three new settlements. These settlements draw water from Lake Tiberias, Baniyas and Mas'adah, and a number of earth dikes and tourist installations have been built on Mount Hermon and on the shores of Lake Tiberias. A denser road network has been constructed around the villages of the Arab Golan in preparation for cutting it off completely and destroying the existing population centres in order to remove all traces of Arab life and create the impression that the Golan is an uninhabited area. In 1966, the population of the Golan numbered 152,990, distributed over 313 population centres. Of this total, there are now only 15,000 persons left in the five Arab villages, as against 10,000 Israeli settlers. Israeli public sources indicate that the settlement plan for the Golan is aimed at settling approximately 100,000 Jewish immigrants, in order to impose a fait accompli and establish the occupation, in addition to the economic and defence advantages afforded by the settlements to the Zionist entity.

It should be noted that the Israeli authorities have recently begun to actively promote settlement in the Golan and to increase the number of settlers there. The most important developments in this connection are as follows:

(1) The Minister for Absorption in the Golan consented, in July 1989, to the establishment of three absorption centres at Katzrin, Khisfin and Mevo Hamma in order to absorb 400 new immigrants who arrived at those settlements in 1990 (Davar, 18 July 1989);

(2) In August 1989, the Israelis began an effort to increase the number of settlers in the Golan from 6,000 to 12,000 over the next five years. On 5 August 1989, Knesset Member Micha Goldman called upon the Jewish Agency and the Ministry of Absorption to endeavour to send Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and South America to the Golan (Ma'ariv, 6 August 1989);

(3) On 31 October 1989, a new settlement called "Had-Nes" was inaugurated in the southern Golan, able initially to absorb 12 families. The settlement was built by the Betar movement. This settlement was expanded in 1990 to increase its absorption capacity;

(4) The Israeli authorities admitted in May 1989 that 30 families of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union had moved to take up residence in the Katz'rin settlement, as the first operation for the settlement of Soviet Jews in the Golan, and, according to Israeli television, the Minister for Absorption, Yitzhak Peretz, said that there were hundreds of empty housing units in this settlement waiting to be filled in the near future with new immigrants;

(5) On 8 July 1990, Soviet television reported that Israel had settled 60 families of new Soviet Jewish immigrants in settlements in the occupied Golan by the beginning of July 1990. The number of family members was given as 160 (Yediot Aharonot, 9 July 1990).

Statements demonstrating this Israeli policy include that made by Yitzhak Shamir to the Israeli newspaper Ma'ariv on 21 July 1987 and repeated by him in 1991:

> "Those who speak of an International Peace Conference want to give up Judea, Samaria, the Gaza District and the Golan Heights completely. We've been accused of not being for peace, but the government coalition says openly that there's no question of giving up the lands of Israel, whether we are speaking of Judea, Samaria, the Gaza District, the Golan Heights or Jerusalem."

On 16 October 1987, Shamir stated to the newspaper Ha'aretz: "The city of Jerusalem, the Sharon, Samaria, Galilee and the Golan form an integral whole, and it is difficult to say that the Israeli people will ever give up these areas."

In a ministerial statement delivered on 22 December 1988, Yitzhak Shamir said that the policy of building settlements was continuing. On 19 March 1990, the Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzhak Shamir, announced his adherence to the occupation of the Golan and said in his reply to leaders of Zionist settlements who had written to him to express their concern at the statements of former United States President Carter, that the idea of abandoning the Syrian Heights did not occur to any Israeli (Al-Sharq, 20 March 1990). In April 1990, the Israeli Parliament promulgated a decree stating, inter alia, that the fate of the Golan could not be the subject of any talks, again in the context of a statement about a united Jerusalem and a call for settlement in any portion thereof. Shamir sent a letter to the head of the Katzrin settlement on 11 February 1991, in which he promised the Israeli settlers that Israeli laws would remain in effect in the Golan for ever (Le Monde, 23 February 1991). The head of the above-mentioned Katzrin settlement embodies the Israeli expansionist mentality based on annexation and the use of force to impose the illegitimate policy of the fait accompli. He said to a French journalist who held an interview with him on 22 February 1991 in the occupied Golan: "The State would be making a great mistake if it placed the Golan on the negotiating table, for a man cannot do without his home! Furthermore, the Heights dominate the most important water resources in the country and are essential as a separation zone between Israel and Syria."

The settlement head, called Meir Monetz, emphasized that "one year ago, there were 200 empty apartments in the Katzrin settlement. Today no apartment is empty, and we have a programme to construct 600 new apartments and hope that the number of our settlement's population will be close on 25,000 by the year 2000." Expressing Israeli expansionist ambitions at the expense of the occupied Arab territories, on 7 August 1990, Yitzhak Shamir said: "We shall stay in the Golan for ever, and the Golan will not be a subject for bargaining. We would not think of giving up the Golan" (Ma'ariv, 8 August 1990). Moshe Arens, Israeli Minister of Defence, justified the continuation of illegal settlement operations in the occupied territories by stating on 12 May 1991: "Settlement and the Israeli Army are the two main factors of Israel's strength. Settlement in the occupied Arab territories establishes that these territories are a part of our country and our homeland and that we have a right to settle there." On 26 May 1991, Reuters reported in an inquiry on the occupied Syrian Golan that Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Minister of Housing, regarded the current construction campaign in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights as a dream come true for the strengthening of Israeli control over the Heights. Reuters added, quoting from a female Israeli settler living in the Golan (Katzrin settlement), named Tsed Katchen, that Sharon had given free rein to bulldozers, trucks and cement mixers in the Katzrin settlement where she lived and which was built in the place of the Syrian Arab village of Masrin. This Israeli settler said that nine years earlier the Israeli authorities had not developed the Golan and that here were the authorities now embarking on feverish construction. The members of the Israeli Government rushed to the occupied Golan in order to assure settlers that Israel would absolutely never soften over the Heights, and these authorities promised the Israeli settlers that, although they had been evacuated from the Yamit settlement (Sinai), they would see that they were not evicted from the Golan Heights except over their dead bodies.

2. Takeover of land

The Israeli authorities have promulgated many military orders amending the law applicable to the occupied Arab territories and the land-tenure system in order to justify the process of confiscation and takeover, invoking security and military exigencies. Various decisions have been taken in that regard, such as annulling all recourse in respect of land-tenure disputes dating back to the period of the British Mandate for Palestine, while other decrees have authorized the transfer of property only with the support of the military governor.

Most of the laws relating to confiscation have been amended in order to facilitate the full takeover of Arab lands. All lands belonging to individuals who were absent at the time of the occupation in 1967 are considered the property of the State, and, in 1979, the occupation authorities promulgated a law whereby Israeli nationals have the right to purchase land in the occupied Arab territories, thereby encouraging them to undertake Jewish settlement activities. The authorities have established settlements by means of military announcements, inasmuch as the land on which these settlements were established was regarded as areas "closed for security reasons". The

authorities also confiscated special choice areas from their lawful owners by a variety of means and prevented them from having access to it. Such lands were usually sown with fruit trees.

By means of such practices, the Israeli authorities confiscated 350 hectares of land owned by Syrian Arab citizens in the Golan Heights, decreed them to be military zones and then assigned them to a number of settlements set up close to Syrian villages. The Israeli authorities have taken over natural water resources, dug wells in territory belonging to citizens, after confiscating their land, and pumped off water from this land to new settlements.

In 1980, Israel confiscated agricultural land from Syrian peasants in the village of Julis, and on 12 April 1986, the occupation authorities conducted a survey of the area extending from south-west of the town of Majdal Shams to Jisr Ma'ad north of the village of Mas'ada and known as the Al-Qati' area, in preparation for taking it over. The area covers more than 1,000 dunums of fertile agricultural land. On 22 April 1986, the Israeli occupation authorities set up barbed wire around an area of 150 dunums in the Balan area, near Majdal Shams, and prevented the inhabitants from approaching it. This operation was kept secret in order to take the inhabitants by surprise and prevent them from organizing resistance. The Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot dated 27 May 1987 reported that the Israeli authorities would enclose other areas in order to prevent illegal building there.

On 24 July 1986, the Israeli newspaper Hamodia reported that the occupation authorities were levelling ground at Ayn al-Tinah and felling all trees in the area. The newspaper Hatzofeh reported on 28 October 1986 that a citizen had been arrested in the village of Buq'ata on the charge of appropriating 7 dunums of land and installing a water tank there for agricultural purposes and that the Israeli authorities and the land administration had had the area ploughed and the water tank destroyed.

As indicated in reports of the Director-General of the International Labour Office, the confiscation operations are continuing and the military authorities have been taking over land, which, after a set period, is included in the State lands to be exploited for the establishment of new settlements. The Israeli authorities make the inhabitants hand over their land deeds in order to put the official stamp on their takeover of the land.

On 20 July 1988, the newspaper Ha'aretz reported that the occupation authorities were setting fire to trees and natural forests on the land, taking them over and banning the citizens from the forests and that they had recently lit fires in parts of Galilee and the Golan, particularly forest and pasture areas. The total area of land burned by the occupiers in occupied Palestine up to May 1990 is more than 28,000 dunums, and forest fires in the Golan up to the same date have covered more than 18,000 dunums, within the framework of the multifaceted Israeli policy of smashing the economic base of the steadfastness of the citizens of the Golan in withstanding the Zionist occupation and adhering to the land and Syrian identity.

We should like to point out that of the 1,176 square kilometres of the Golan, the Syrian Arabs are able to utilize only 200,000 dunums, of which 15,000 dunums are arable.

The chain of incendiarism on the Golan's agricultural land continued during 1990, within the framework of desperate Israeli attempts to reduce the agricultural areas from which the Syrian population makes a livelihood. On 19 May 1990, a fabricated fire consumed approximately 2,500 dunums of protected natural plant-life land in the area extending from Wadi Hawwa and Zubatiyan in the central Golan to the north-east of Lake Tiberias. This fire destroyed extensive grazing areas, as well as many forest trees and wild plants (Ha'aretz, 20 May 1990), thus depriving Arab herdsmen in the Golan of grazing areas that formerly constituted a portion of their income. Two other fires broke out on 21 June 1990 and destroyed 1,500 more dunums of grazing land and woods (Ha'aretz, 5 June 1990). The Israeli newspaper Ma'ariv ascribed some of the fires to military exercises conducted by Israeli forces in the area (Ma'ariv, 21 May 1990).

Fires are set near the frontier strip to a width of 100 to 200 metres by the occupation authorities, exploiting the summer season, which is the period when plants and agricultural crops, such as wheat and barley, have dried and taking advantage of the rapid west-east wind so that the course of the fire destroys crops and orchards. Furthermore, any fire that passes beyond the wires to the mine fields will blow up these fields, preventing the approach of anyone who seeks to extinguish it. Naturally, the occupation authorities will not respond to appeals and calls for help from the owners of crops and land attacked by the fires from among the Golan population. In addition to this, the Israeli authorities confiscate the land of Arab owners in preparation for distributing it to their agents or annexing it to settlements or for military purposes. For example, the Israeli occupation authorities ordered the local council in the village of Majdal Shams to confiscate some land for distribution to agents, and these authorities began to oppress the people of the village in order to prevent them from using the land, in preparation for annexing it to the Neve Ativ settlement, for the purpose of maintaining the tourist/military road extending from Majdal Shams to Wadi al-Kaslah. The occupation authorities also laid hands on waqf land in the Tall al-Qas'ah area located to the north of the village of Mas'adah.

3. Takeover of water resources

The Israeli occupation authorities have been putting pressure on the inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan in order to make them emigrate, making a livelihood difficult for them and weakening them economically by depriving them of water resources, diverting these to settlements and preventing the inhabitants from digging new wells.

Although the inhabitants of the Golan used to depend on the water of Birkat Ram in Mas'adah, which holds between 2 and 3 million cubic metres of water enclosed in volcanic rock, collecting the water in large metal tanks before supplying it to their lands by metal pipes, the occupation authorities

have imposed an embargo on pumping this water to irrigate apple and other orchards.

The inhabitants are faced with a major problem every time they wish to install tanks or dig new wells, since they have to obtain the prior permission of the governor, who refuses to give it and does not even let them install the plastic pipes they need for irrigating their orchards. By contrast, the Zionist settlers are allowed to pipe water to their lands, to dig wells and even to pump water from the wells of Arab farmers.

The Israeli authorities took to court many farmers in Golan villages who had refused to close their tanks, alleging use of State water resources and exploitation of and encroachment on neighbouring land.

The occupation authorities seek thereby to destroy the trade in apples and the cultivation of apples as a basic resource of local inhabitants. Consequently, they are confiscating spring water and diverting it to Zionist settlements. The Israeli authorities have seized the springs at Al-Ya'furi, Al-Mushayrifah and Ra's Abu Sa'd and installed pipes dozens of kilometres long in order to supply water from Mas'ada to the agricultural settlements established on the slopes of Tel Abu al-Nada, thereby significantly reducing the level of the water table whereby the Arab inhabitants irrigate their orchards and causing Syria to install a pipeline in 1984 in order to pump water to Majdal Shams. There is now a shortage of drinking water in Mas'ada, Buq'ata and Ayn al-Tinah, and the Syrian Government has dug new wells to irrigate these villages.

It should be noted that the development plan submitted to the World Zionist Organization in 1975 called for the supply of 7,590,000 cubic metres of water to Jewish settlers, who then numbered only 7,000, as compared with 2.1 million cubic metres for the more than 15,000 inhabitants of the occupied Syrian villages.

Artesian wells are now the only source of water (including drinking water), as a result of the confiscation of springs, and this affects the cultivation of crops, including apples, and also public health, particularly since the six existing wells are administered by the Israeli water authority and the water that reaches the inhabitants is often polluted.

Recently, the Israeli authorities forbade the population of Buq'ata to use the drinking water channelled to them through the pipeline from Syria and also forbade them to repair the feeder pipes on their side of the frontier.

Even worse, the occupation authorities impose overwhelming taxes on Syrian farmers in the Golan when they exploit the water resources on their land. For example, for the exploitation of irrigation water, the taxes amounted to 1 million Israeli new shekels (NIS) for the village of Buq'atah, NIS 1.5 million for the village of Majdal Shams and NIS 1 million for the village of Mas'adah. The Israeli enemy authorities confiscate water resources on the land of Syrian farmers and annex them to Israeli settlements, which

number 38. These water resources are in the Mushayrifah area opposite the village of Sahita and are made up of groundwater. The people there buy water to irrigate their land and water their apple trees, which are almost ruined. This is a highly important issue, because the purpose behind it is to force farmers to sell their land, with the apple trees standing, for the sake of a livelihood and consequently to bring them to their knees and take away their human autonomy.

4. Economic and social changes

The annexation policy and settlement plans implemented in the occupied territories, including the Syrian Arab Golan, have had an impact in all spheres of economic and social life and have resulted in a deterioration in agriculture, industry and education. This situation has also had the effect of linking the territories' economy to the Israeli economy, diverting thousands of agricultural, industrial and crafts workers to the Israeli labour market and obliging the majority of the population, if they are able, to immigrate in order to earn their livelihood. In the course of 22 years of repressive occupation, no economic links have been established between the Zionist settlers and the patriots of the Golan.

In 1981, the occupation authorities raised taxes and continued to exert material pressure on the population. The occupation authorities prohibited the provision of any government services to any citizen who opposed the concept of annexation and the constraints on the population's freedom of movement in the Golan. That was in addition to the increase in the prices of supplies and the refusal of allowances to needy families, in spite of the taxes that were imposed on one half of the season's apple crop. Recently, the occupation authorities have prohibited exportation of the apple crop and even imposed a ban on buying it. In view of these measures, in the same year the population of the Golan staged demonstrations and a number of newspaper correspondents were arrested and their films of demonstrations, prisoners and detainees were burnt.

In 1984, the occupation authorities continued the same treatment, forbidding the citizens of Majdal Shams to export their produce to Syria.

With assistance from the forces of occupation, Israeli tax collectors perpetrated provocative acts and acts of intimidation, checking the identity of all individuals who passed through the many checkpoints set up at crossroads, which obliged many Syrian families to leave their villages reluctantly in search of a better life in order to escape the living conditions and the economic circumstances imposed on them by the occupation authorities.

This harassment continued in 1990. Many families' land was confiscated. A total economic blockade was imposed on the Golan, the freedom of the population of the Golan to work was restricted, workers' wages were reduced, workers registered with the military Administration were obliged to carry out unpleasant work (tarring roads and repairing sewers, for example), and many

workers were wrongfully accused of collaborating with the Syrian authorities, the aim being to give the occupier a pretext for arresting and imprisoning them and preventing them from working on their land.

The Syrian Arab citizens of the Golan celebrated the anniversary of Syrian independence, during the period from 15 to 17 April 1990. On that occasion, the Israeli authorities arrested dozens of people and imposed new lump-sum taxes; refusal to pay meant being sent to prison. All these efforts were aimed, basically, at impoverishing the population of the Golan, weakening patriotic resistance and forcing the population to submit or emigrate, with a view to depopulating the Golan.

The occupation authorities impose crippling taxes of numerous kinds, which weigh heavily on citizens. There is a dollar tax on drugs, the income tax, another tax called the "value-added tax" and another called the "national insurance tax", which is imposed on all producers, in addition to the charges imposed on vehicles. The Israeli occupation authorities bargain over the freedom of children and students arrested on nationalist occasions, demanding payment of the sum of $100 for each child or student released following arrest. Adult Syrian citizens who are arrested are released on payment of $150 each.

Agriculture

A simple economic comparison between the Syrian Arab producer on his land and his consumption of the foodstuffs produced by the occupation authorities gives us some idea of the volume of financial and economic extortion practised by these authorities in respect of Syrian citizens. The price of one kilogram of apples is the equivalent of 50 cents, and on it are imposed an income tax and a value added tax, while a felafel sandwich costs $1.20 and the land tax is estimated at $75 per month for an area of 5 dunums. The occupation authorities prohibit the population from selling their agricultural produce on the markets. It must be sold to an Israeli merchant to be priced and taxed appropriately. As a result of these severe pressures, some Syrian citizens are forced to sell their land in order to pay the crippling taxes imposed on them.

Unquestionably, the suffering of the Golan Arabs in the agricultural sphere is regarded as one of the most serious aspects of their suffering because agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the population of the occupied Golan. The Israelis have realized this and have tightened the restrictions on the marketing of agricultural crops and produce, limiting their distribution and marketing to Israeli companies only, in order to impose the price set by these companies. In addition, the occupation authorities have failed to ensure the necessary quantity of water to irrigate the agricultural and wooded areas from which the people make a living. When the population tries to overcome their problems by digging wells, the Israeli authorities hasten to fill up those wells, and they also prevent them from approaching other water sources in the area. They cut the pipes whereby the Arab citizens try to resolve their water problem, as happened in the village

of Ayn Qunyah, where the frontier guard cut two kilometres of piping laid by the villagers to irrigate their agricultural lands. They alleged that the piping had been laid illegally. At the same time, the Israeli authorities are stealing the water of Arab villages to channel it to the orchards of settlers in the occupied Syrian Heights.

The agricultural situation in the Golan deteriorated owing to the confiscation of extensive tracts of fertile land, and, as a result, the people of the region now have only 20,000 dunums in their possession. In addition, there was the takeover of water resources by the Israeli occupier; the refusal to grant permits to the population to dig new wells on their land; measures designed both to make farmers' access to their land difficult - consisting, in particular, in the placement of mines both around and on their land - and to separate farms from one another by means of surrounding them by Jewish settlements, with a view to taking possession of them and denying the agricultural products of the population of the region access to markets so that they could not compete with Israeli settlements products; not to mention the confiscation by Israeli tax collectors of stored apples on a variety of pretext and the destruction of cold-storage plants.

The chief problem facing Syrian Arab farmers is the fact that their apple crop, which is their main source of income, no longer has market access. The measure denying the apple crop market access was adopted on 12 March 1988, the day on which Shlomo Weizmann, President of the Israeli Farmers' Union - using as a pretext the unremitting hatred and hostility shown by the population of the Golan in respect of the occupation forces - announced a boycott of the apples grown by them.

In economic terms, that was to have a catastrophic effect on the population of the Golan, whose living conditions worsened, with all that that implies (for example, a deterioration in health and social conditions and an increase in the number of unemployed Syrian workers, who have become a source of cheap labour for the Israeli economy).

Animal husbandry

The occupation authorities are endeavouring to reduce the amount of pastureland by building roads, uprooting trees and setting fires, with the aim of dealing a death-blow to economic activity in the region and depriving the Arab population of the Golan of milk. (It is known that the population is supplied with milk by the region's goat farmers.) The Israeli authorities therefore issued decrees forbidding the raising of black goats without a special permit. This is used by the occupation authorities to justify the confiscation of the majority of black goats and sell them at absurdly low prices - on the pretext that the goats are a threat to the environment.

The attempt to reduce pastureland in the Golan is not all that is suffered by Arab herdsmen there. There are other brutal practices carried out by the occupation authorities against Arab herdsmen. The most prominent is the laying of anti-personnel mines around many pasture areas without informing

the Arab herdsmen of that so that they might avoid them. This has led to the deaths of many Arab herdsmen. One example of that is the report from some sources than an Arab herdsman was killed on 5 September 1990 when a mine blew up under his feet when he was trying to enter a pasture area near the village of Mas'adah. The occupation authorities, to justify the existence of mines in that pasture area, merely cited their usual practice of security requirements (Ha'aretz, 6 September 1990).

Industry

The Israeli occupation authorities have prevented the emergence in the occupied territories of a local economic policy to promote the establishment of enterprises and workshops operating for the benefit of citizens by refusing to give their approval to any effort to promote the regional economy's various production sectors. They also prohibit the promotion of Arab investments or the opening of credits and do not permit the establishment of any industrial or agro-industrial project, for fear that they might compete with Israeli producers, who completed construction of a cannery in the Katzrin settlement in the occupied Golan. In addition, the occupation authorities exercised control over prices, stocks and the marketing of virtually all fruit grown in the Golan, as well as over all other necessities of life there.

The occupation authorities prohibit the population of the Golan from cooperating to open credits in order to set up a cold-storage network, make cooperative investments and set up carpentry and storage facilities, the aim being to impoverish them, to oblige them to buy their supplies from the Israeli settlements and to promote the penetration of Israeli industrial products, starting with blocks, tiles, wood products, iron-mongering and equipment for quarrying marble. We wish to emphasize a well-known fact, namely, that before 1967 the village of Majdal Shams was one of the industrial centres of the Golan governorate (ironsmith work, carpentry, building materials, agricultural tools). However, most of these installations have fallen into disuse.

5. Situation with regard to education

The main goal of the Israeli occupation authorities' education policy is to stifle any national feeling among the population of the occupied Arab Golan, with a view to cutting them off from their national, historical and cultural roots and severing their ties with their mother country, Syria.

The Israeli occupation authorities violate the principle of the inviolability of the occupied Arab territories' educational and cultural institutions. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has adopted a whole series of resolutions condemning Israel in that connection. However, the occupation authorities fail to heed those resolutions and continue to engage in the practices in question, committing acts of terrorism against students and teaching staff and subjecting them to racial discrimination. As a result of this policy, which the population of the Golan has protested against, the situation with regard to education has

deteriorated. In implementing the policy in question, the occupation authorities have engaged in the following practices:

(1) They have replaced Syrian Arab curricula by Israeli curricula, prohibited Syrian textbooks, forced Syrian students to learn Hebrew, and imposed education policies inciting hatred, intolerance and religious fanaticism, with the aim of eliminating any Arab national characteristics from the education provided. They have replaced the Arabic names of places and rivers with Hebrew names;

(2) They have arbitrarily dismissed many qualified teachers - because of their nationalist views - and have replaced them by unqualified teachers; and they have obliged the teachers who they have not dismissed to teach the requirements of Israeli curriculum. The teachers dismissed include Bahjat Salman Mar'i, Nazir Khatir, Ghassan Abu Salih, Majid Mahmud, Salih Muhammad Umashah and Hasan Yahya al-Qaysh from Baq'ata; Hasan Fakhr al-Din, Qasim Mahmud al-Safadi, Najah Abu Jabal, Wahban al-Safadi and Farhan Ali al-Safadi from Majdal Shams; Najat Hasan al-Safadi from Mas'adah, who is currently in the country; Nazim Nasr al-Din Sa'b and Tahir Mundhir from Ayn Qunyah;

(3) They have closed many schools;

(4) School premises have become dilapidated, and the ones remaining open no longer meet the educational conditions or have the essential requirements. Nor is the inauguration of new schools permitted. The schools do not have the means to provide proper medical monitoring; there is, in fact, only one doctor in the region providing medical care for pupils. Furthermore, there is blatant intervention in most school curricula in the Golan, imposing a lower level than that prevailing in Israeli schools. The curricula in Arab schools are drawn up to serve Zionist purposes and ambitions in our Arab territory. The Hebrew language is taught to children from the first grade, and the subject of ancient and modern Jewish history is emphasized, while the history of the ancient civilizations of the Middle East is distorted;

(5) The occupation authorities impose harsh constraints on all administrative procedures and withhold personal documents from children from families that oppose the occupation, thus preventing them from attending school in the region or elsewhere;

(6) They have been preventing students from the Golan from completing their higher education either at Syrian Arab universities (since 1982) or at universities in socialist countries, and they exert pressure on consulates in order to ensure that they do not issue visas to students wishing to go somewhere else in order to complete their higher education. As for the few Arabs who are permitted to attend Israeli universities, they did not have an opportunity to study in the fields in which they are best qualified;

(7) They raid the premises of educational institutions;

(8) They have arrested both students and teachers;

(9) They hinder access to employment for the small number of Syrian Arab citizens holding Israeli university degrees.

6. The labour situation

The economic and social situations in all the occupied Arab territories cannot be divorced from the inhuman conditions in which workers and the majority of the population are living, in view of the total lack of civilized laws and the contempt for the laws of the international community under Israeli occupation.

Throughout Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, including the Golan, Arab workers suffer racial discrimination and coercion, being forced to endure working conditions that are extremely precarious by comparison with those enjoyed by Israeli workers in respect of security, national insurance, wages, health care, job security and general safety, as well as in respect of trade union assembly.

In the occupied areas, Arab workers are not free to establish trade unions or to exercise their trade union freedoms under the occupation regime. Whatever trade union premises Arab workers might have are always liable to be raided by the police, threatening to shut them down. Most union members and union leaders have been subjected to administrative detention, house arrest or deportation, so that Arab workers might continue to suffer the worst forms of exploitation and to work in inhumane conditions, enduring all forms of racial discrimination and set apart from their Israeli counterparts.

In this connection, appearing before the United States Special Committee on Preferences on 17 November 1988, Ms. Mary Rosenbluth said that the Israeli authorities were continually violating the rights of Arab workers to form associations and trade unions; that they were shutting down the premises of existing associations and expelling union members; and that they were also prosecuting Arab workers and prohibiting them from defending their rights, as documented in reports by the United States Department of State, which noted that the Israeli authorities had rejected over 100 applications from Palestinians to establish trade unions on the pretext that they failed to meet security standards. Ms. Rosenbluth pointed out that imprisoned Arab workers were denied their right to a fair trial and that deportation methods against union members accused of stirring up violence and unrest were arbitrary.

Appearing before the same committee on 17 November 1988, Ms. Judith Chomsky said that, while the statement by the Israeli Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, as reported by the Israeli Embassy in Washington, contained a number of untruths, it did acknowledge that workers in the occupied territories did not receive unemployment benefits, family allowances or retirement pensions. The Israelis were deliberately distorting the rules established by the International Labour Organisation so as to give a semblance of legitimacy to Israeli practices. Ms. Chomsky called for the exclusion of

Israel from the Generalized System of Preferences because of what she saw as its failure to extend internationally recognized rights to the workers.

The International Labour Organisation recently published a report warning of the dangers of the situation and living conditions of Arab workers in the occupied Arab territories as a result of the arbitrary practices of the Israeli occupation authorities based on stripping the population of their legitimate rights. The Israeli authorities have resorted to strengthening the economic noose around their necks since the outbreak of the uprising through efforts to rid the land of its legitimate owners and then Judaize it. The report also brought out the fact that, in the context of the policy of racial discrimination, Israel is laying its hands on the economy of the occupied territory and subjecting the citizens to economic harassment by various means, including withholding permission to sell their produce and preventing them from overseeing that produce or engaging in their crafts or trades, in order to force them to take up employment on Israeli farms for absurdly low wages and in harsh working conditions in contravention of all international customs and laws. In this connection, we should mention the two resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation, resolution 9 of 1974, condemning the policy of racial discrimination applied against Arab workers and the violation of trade union freedoms by the occupation authorities in Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories, and resolution 2 of 1980, calling upon the occupation authorities to put an immediate end to the establishment of new settlements. We should also mention the resolutions on this subject adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council in 1990:

United Nations General Assembly resolution 45/69 of 6 December 1990 (para. 5);

United Nations General Assembly resolution 45/68 of 6 December 1990 (para. 3).

The employment situation in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan is characterized by a number of essentially seasonal features, Zionist settlers/landowners and the owners of Israeli businesses hire workers during peak periods, imposing any terms they wish.

The low living standard among the Arab population in the occupied territories and the villages of the Golan have prompted inhabitants to find work by any means they can in order to increase their income. This situation is the direct result of a number of measures taken by the Israeli authorities to bring Arab workers from the Golan into the Israeli job market, so as to capitalize on the difference in wages between the two regions and weaken those workers' links with their land and their nation. Vocational training centres have been established to that end; such centres have attracted youths and students from schools which had no teachers and thus have been a poison apple to deprive them of an education.

In 1979 alone, more than 1,786 youths were trained at such centres to work in construction, excavation, road surfacing, agricultural workshops, drainage work and all kinds of low-paid harsh work. The most outstanding features of the tragic positions of Arab workers in the occupied Arab territories are clear from the following:

(1) In the past five years, the Israeli economy has absorbed over 40 per cent of the active population of the occupied territories in order to meet its demands for cheap, skilled Arab labour;

(2) Most of the Arab workers are obliged to do difficult, unskilled and poorly paid work (black labour);

(3) According to seasonal agricultural conditions, the unemployment ratio decreases, causing stagnation in industrial employment and unemployment among Arab workers;

(4) The rights of Arab workers and Israeli workers are not equal either as to the level and nature of work or as to the level of wages;

(5) The Israeli economy uses cheap Arab labour. There is also an imbalance in business relations arising from the heavy dependence on the job market in Israel and the consequences of the domination that has accompanied the occupation, as well as the consequences of arbitrary controls and measures restricting the export of produce and the manufacture of products used in agriculture;

(6) The effect of inflation, and of the impact of inflation on the wages policy, has been to attract workers, particularly from border regions;

(7) Arab farmers cannot obtain licences to export their agricultural produce to the European Community;

(8) The vocational training which children receive at school is nothing more than elementary technical training;

(9) The work permits issued to Arab workers only appear to give job security; there are no guarantees of employment, and employees may lose their jobs when their permits expire, or even for any other spurious reason given by the employer;

(10) Arab workers are denied recourse to the courts, and the option to file grievances with military tribunals exists only on paper;

(11) Deductions are made from the wages of Arab workers on the same basis as Israeli workers, but the former do not enjoy the same social benefits;

(12) The military regime in effect since 1979 still exists, with all the accompanying restrictions on civil and trade union rights, and on freedom of movement;

(13) Arab workers are denied full or even temporary membership in the Histadrut; they therefore cannot defend their rights through that channel;

(14) The Israeli occupation authorities do not permit technical workers with university degrees, most of whom are graduates of Syrian universities, while others are graduates of the universities of Eastern European States, to practise their professions, on many spurious pretexts, such as the assertion that they have leaked information to their Syrian Arab homeland or that their knowledge and academic studies are questionable. This has turned the technical workers into agricultural workers in their own fields or common labourers sweeping streets and laying drains.

7. The health situation

Since the Arab territories were first occupied by Israel in 1967, Israel has pursued a well-established policy regarding medical institutions; it seeks to undermine them completely so that Arab patients will be forced to obtain treatment in Israeli hospitals. The occupation authorities believe that the continued functioning of these medical establishments constitutes a demonstration of independence from them that is inconsistent with their policy of Judaization and stamping out all traces of Arab identity in the occupied areas.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has recalled that the situation in the health field worsened seriously in the wake of the restrictions imposed by the occupation authorities in the health sector and the arbitrary and inhumane measures applied by those authorities.

The report of the WHO Tripartite Committee states that the health situation in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan has deteriorated in recent years, largely because of the measures taken by Israel. The report specifies that the Golan villages have only four clinics and that those facilities cannot function normally under such conditions.

As a result of this situation, nearly 75 per cent of the region's patients and inhabitants go to West Bank hospitals run by Arab charitable organizations; however, in emergencies they are forced to seek treatment in Israeli hospitals. Furthermore, the Water Department cuts off the water supply of villages in the Golan when groundwater levels fall because the occupation authorities are pumping the water from Mas'ada for use by the settlements. For its part, the Sick Fund (Kupat Holim) refuses to respond to emergency calls from inhabitants of Syrian villages; it does not send ambulances when they request them and fails to come to the aid of pregnant women and gravely ill children.

Chief among the arbitrary measures adopted by the Israeli authorities are the following:

(1) Since 1967, the development of hospitals, clinics and other health-care centres has been impeded;

(2) The Israeli authorities are trying to decrease the level of services provided by Arab health-care centres by cutting back all their equipment and facilities;

(3) They interfere with the provision of services by the centres and occasionally close them, citing security reasons;

(4) Each year, appropriations for Arab health facilities are reduced, while foreign aid and gifts are prevented from reaching their destination on time.

In the occupied villages of the Syrian Arab Golan, health problems are aggravated by the fact that only the absolute minimum is done to provide first aid and preventive and therapeutic care. The population complains of a deterioration in the health field, as demonstrated by the following:

(1) The inhabitants of Arab villages in the Golan lack any means of building hospitals with a view to improving their health situation;

(2) Under instructions from the Israeli authorities, an Israeli identity card must be produced in order to use the facilities set up for Sick Fund participants and to obtain children's and old people's benefits provided by the National Insurance Institute (Keren Habituah Haleumi). In addition, a health card fee of over 2,000 Israeli pounds has recently been instituted; this measure reflects a total lack of humanitarian feeling and is designed to exploit patients and impose Israeli nationality on them by force;

(3) The cost of medical screening, treatments and medicines is high, and the four existing clinics cannot meet citizens' needs; they lack medical equipment and specialists - for example, they have no gynaecologist and no paediatrician. Moreover, there is only one school doctor for all the schools in the Golan, and this doctor is not backed by an alternate.

As a further measure of repression, the occupation authorities refuse to allow Syrian nationals in the Golan to travel outside the territory for treatment, even if they require emergency assistance, unless they obtain - sometimes literally poised between life and death - an official exit permit bearing the signature of the local military governor. If the governor refuses to grant a sick national the required permit - which occurs frequently - the effect is tantamount to a death sentence. Justification for such a decision - which is not open to challenge or appeal - is always at hand, namely, the Israeli authorities' reference to so-called security requirements.

(4) Doctors are available only during a few hours and on certain days of the week;

(5) There are no centres which specialize in maternal and child care, and in particular no pregnancy-monitoring centres;

(6) There is not a single pharmacy in any village in the Golan;

(7) Schools do not provide adequate medical services, and standards of cleanliness are low;

(8) The Sick Fund provides assistance only as and when it chooses;

(9) The population complains of water pollution;

(10) Despite a substantial proliferation of mosquitoes and the resurgence of epidemics, the authorities take no action;

(11) There is no drainage system in the occupied villages for sewage disposal.

8. Illegal archaeological excavations and looting of antiquities

Ever since Israel occupied the Golan, operations have been conducted to excavate and steal antiquities, in contravention of the international principles prohibiting such activity which were signed by Israel at New Delhi in 1956. The occupation authorities are also systematically destroying the Syrian national heritage in the Golan, as they did shortly before their withdrawal from liberated Quneitra in 1973, when Israel completely destroyed the town (its national museum, five churches, mosques, buildings, institutes and both Islamic and Christian graveyards). The Golan region is an ancient one with a history stretching back to the Stone Age. According to Israel's own studies, 209 valuable archaeological sites have been identified in the Golan; the occupation authorities have seized and appropriated them and altered history to record them as "Jewish-factor antiquities". A United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) report prepared in 1990 by Professor Raymond Lier, the personal representative of the Director-General, criticized the occupation authorities' excavations for antiquities in the occupied territories, including the Golan, since 1967. The report stated that the excavations being carried out by Israel ran counter to the international principles signed by the Israeli Government at New Delhi in 1956, which prohibit damage to archaeological sites in territories under occupation (Ma'ariv, 9 December 1990). As for the stealing of antiquities, Israeli sources report that a cache containing some 9,000 bronze coin pieces minted in the fourth century A.D. were found at the Katzrin settlement site in the occupied Golan Heights: this valuable archaeological treasure had of course been looted by the occupation authorities in accordance with their persistent practice (Al Hamishmar, 20 August 1990). The occupation authorities altered history by attributing the antiquities to the so-called "Jewish factor" in history, meaning the alleged role of the Jews in the history of the region: in this way they appropriate archaeological discoveries after falsifying them for their own contemporary purposes of colonial expansion. Archaeological studies in the Golan have been published in a number of specialized reviews and periodicals, including Palestine Exploration Quarterly, July-December 1982, pages 129-142, which includes an article on the Jewish and Christian communities in the Golan in Roman and

Byzantine times entitled "Jewish and Christian communities in the Roman and Byzantine Gaulanitis". The January-June 1985 edition (pp. 60-68) of the same periodical contains a study entitled "Comments on the Jewish and Christian communities in Byzantine Palestine" by Zi Yumauz. An article in the French-language periodical Revue Biblique, No. 2 (April 1984), also contained an article comparing the proportion of Nabatean Arab antiquities in the Golan village of Faraj to the proportion of Byzantine antiquities (pp. 254-260).

9. Human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories

Ever since the occupation in 1967, Arab citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan have been living at the mercy of emergency legislation and arbitrary treatment by the authorities responsible for direct military rule, which subject them to tyranny, injustice and oppression. The military authorities freely impose curfews whenever they wish and for as long as they choose or determine. Since Israel's announcement of its decision to annex the occupied Syrian heights in the Golan on 14 December 1981, there has been an escalation in Israeli violations of human rights legislation, together with an increase in acts of repression, campaigns of detention and successive waves of terror with a view to ensuring that Israeli laws are applied and, in particular, that Israeli identity is imposed on Arab nationals. There has also been a dangerous escalation in Israel's violations of international and humanitarian law in the occupied Arab territories in general, leading the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council to adopt many successive resolutions year after year. The latest resolutions of the Security Council in this connection were resolution 672 (1990) of 12 October 1990, expressing alarm at the violence which took place at the Haram al-Sharif and other Holy Places of Jerusalem, resulting in over 20 Palestinian deaths and the injury of more than 150 people; and resolution 681 (1990) of 20 December 1990, which expresses concern at the dangerous deterioration of the situation in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and at the deportation of four Palestinians from the occupied territories in contravention of Israel's obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention. We may also note in this context General Assembly resolutions 45/74 A, B, C, D, E, F and G of 11 December 1990, concerning the investigation of Israeli practices in the occupied territories and Israel's violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949: these resolutions deplore the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, including the Golan, and strongly condemn Israel for its refusal to comply with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations concerning the Golan, particularly Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Arab Golan was null and void and without international legal effect.

It is noteworthy that the times at which the true face of military rule and its apparatus of repression is seen at its most repugnant are those when the Arab population of the Golan rebels in protest against the practices and continued existence of the occupation. When the occupation authorities use all the means at their disposal to put down the population's rebellion or protest, they resort to severe beatings and sometimes fire live bullets at

those nationals who engage in demonstrations, besides raiding houses and schools, arresting citizens, throwing them into prison and engaging in other intimidatory practices of repression. The following is an illustration of the most noteworthy practices of repression by the occupation authorities in the Golan during the year 1990:

(1) The Galilee police authorities claimed to have uncovered two local guerrilla organizations in the occupied Arab villages of the Golan. Before this announcement by the police on 13 February 1990, seven youths from Majdal Shams and Buq'ata were reported to have been arrested. The first organization was said to consist of youths from the two villages who planned to kidnap an Israeli soldier in the Golan and to use him as a means of exerting pressure on the Israeli authorities to release Arab prisoners in the Golan. Police sources said that this organization's membership consisted of four youths, who were arrested. The second organization was said to be a group of whom two members were accused of belonging to the first organization, as well as three other students. The members of the latter organization intended to throw Molotov cocktails and raise Syrian flags on the anniversary of the imposition of Israeli law in the Golan;

(2) On Wednesday, 14 February 1990, the noble population of the Golan reiterated its rejection of the Israeli occupation and of Israel's 1981 annexation law by declaring a general strike in all villages of the occupied Golan which brought life to an almost complete stop. The strike, which affected all public utilities and schools, including even taxis and private shops, was held on the eighth anniversary of the historic six-month strike declared by the Arabs of the Golan in 1982 in protest against the annexation decision.

Fears as to how the situation might develop caused a massive deployment of regular and border police forces, with full military equipment, in the occupied villages of the Golan, which were encircled by the early hours of the morning of 14 February. In addition, Minister of Police Haim Bar-Lev himself accompanied the Inspector-General of Police, David Kraus, for a first-hand view of the situation. By way of explanation, Bar-Lev said that no demonstrations must be held and that the anniversary must pass off quietly.

The occupied village of Buq'ata was the scene of a major gathering of young people, despite the intensive Israeli military presence there. Youths from the village distributed the national document which had been issued by dozens of noble citizens of the Golan in 1982 and in which they affirmed their categorical rejection of the occupation. The publication Strike - which is published once each year - was also distributed by the League of University Graduates.

On 24 February 1990, the Syrian Arab citizens of the occupied Golan issued a statement deploring Zionist migration to Arab Palestine and the Golan. They described such migration as a practical application of the policy of Zionist expansionism in Arab territory and a move to fulfil Zionist aspirations of establishing a so-called Greater Israel and of settling new

colonizers in the place of Arabs, the original owners of land which they had inherited through the ages of history from their fathers and forefathers, only to be expelled from it. These citizens confirmed their rejection of the occupation and of the Zionist settlement policy, which at this particular stage constitutes an attempt to thwart the courageous uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and to undermine resistance to the occupation by the noble population of the Golan. The statement also affirmed the continuation of militant solidarity between our people in the Golan and Palestine in resistance against the Zionist occupation, as well as the noble population of the Golan's endorsement and support of the courageous uprising with all the means at its disposal.

(3) On 17 April 1990, on the anniversary of the Syrian independence holiday, Syrian Arab citizens in the villages of the occupied Golan staged a major popular demonstration during which they raised Syrian flags and banners condemning the occupation, urging withdrawal and reaffirming the determination of the area's citizens to persist in their struggle against the occupation and its criminal repressive practices.

The occupation authorities immediately proceeded to deploy large military units in the occupied Syrian villages, to set up roadblocks and to dispatch street patrols. They also arrested a number of citizens known for their ability to incite national sentiments. According to Israeli radio, large contingents of regular and border police forces had been deployed in different quarters of the occupied villages by the evening of 16 April with a view to preventing people from commemorating the independence holiday. The forces also carried out a series of operations designed to pre-empt trouble, the most notable being the imposition of a curfew on all villages from the evening of 16 April.

However, all these measures were of no avail because citizens insisted on commemorating the independence holiday. This led to bloody clashes with the occupation forces, particularly at Majdal Shams. The Israeli police subsequently detained a number of the demonstrators for questioning.

Meanwhile, the strike spread to all occupied villages in the Golan, including schools, shops and transport. As a result, the occupation authorities endeavoured to use force and violence to break the strike.

(4) At the end of the first week of July 1990, the district court at Nazareth handed down a suspended sentence of imprisonment for one year and a fine of 2,000 new shekels to Syrian entertainment director Sulayman Bariq, who had begun work at a students' summer camp adjacent to the occupied village of Majdal Shams in the summer of 1989. The Israeli indictment adopted by the court in its judgement stated that Sulayman Bariq had induced students at Majdal Shams to stick banners on tents at the camp bearing the names of martyrs of the uprising in the occupied Arab territories. The indictment went on to say that Bariq had thus incited the students to support the uprising.

(5) Personnel from the Israel Lands Administration cut down peach and apple trees on a 400-dunum plot belonging to Mas'ada resident Salim Bathish. According to the 4 April 1990 edition of Davar, the trees were cut down on orders from the district court at Nazareth, amidst protests from the local population.

(6) Two Syrian nationals - Fayiz Sa'id Mahmud, 20 years of age, and Mahmud Hasan al-Safadi - were intercepted by a patrol of occupation soldiers while walking along the road leading north from the occupied heights. The members of the patrol fired on them, killing the first of the two, and arrested the latter. In order to justify this criminal act, the occupation authorities alleged that both nationals were on their way to their homeland, Syria, and that they had gathered military information about Israel for submission to the Syrian authorities. However, the Israeli authorities did not find any document in their possession at the site of the incident. The killing of the first youth and the arrest of the other gave rise to a wave of anger and resentment among Arab nationals at Majdal Shams and other occupied villages of the Golan, causing the Israeli authorities to launch a campaign of arrests. They detained seven citizens for questioning, and a large number of these youths remain subject to detention and questioning (Ha'aretz, 2 November 1990).

(7) At the end of December 1990, the Israeli Supreme Court announced its rejection of the appeal lodged by four citizens of the Golan against their sentences of imprisonment for periods of between 18 and 27 years. The reasons given by the Court for its decision to reject the appeal included an allegation that the youths concerned had seriously violated Israel's security by plotting - according to the Court - to abduct an Israeli soldier with a view to forcing the Israeli authorities to agree to the release of Syrian security detainees held in Israeli prisons.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Item 35 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 1 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of the declaration of the European Council on the peace process in the Middle East, issued on 29 June 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jan de MARCHANT et d'ANSEMBOURG
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/46/50.

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Item 46 of the preliminary list*
IRAQI AGGRESSION AND THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 1 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of the declaration of the European Council on the situation in Iraq, issued on 29 June 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 46 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jan de MARCHANT et d'ANSEMBOURG
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Declaration on the situation in Iraq issued on 29 June 1991 by the European Council

The European Council remains concerned about the situation in Iraq and by the fate of civilian populations, in particular Kurds and Shi'ites, in the north and south-east of the country. It recalls its initiative of 8 April 1991 and welcomes the fact that the establishment of security zones in the north of Iraq has enabled a large number of Kurdish refugees to return. It expresses the wish that the refugees who have remained in Iran will soon be able in their turn to go back to their homes in complete security. It also recalls the major effort made by the European Community and its member States to come to the help of these populations.

The European Council marks its satisfaction at the important role played by the United Nations in the repatriation and re-establishment of refugees in their country. It underlines, in this context, the need to bring about as rapidly as possible the full deployment of the contingent of 500 United Nations guards. To facilitate this deployment, the European Council undertakes to meet the uncovered expenses of this operation between now and the end of the year. The European Council also acknowledges with satisfaction the contribution in men which certain member States have made to the contingent of United Nations guards.

The European Council notes the negotiations that are under way between the Iraqi authorities and leaders representatives of the Kurdish population. It hopes that these negotiations will lead rapidly to a satisfactory agreement and considers that it would be appropriate for the international community to give its support to such an agreement on the basis of resolution 688 (1991) of the Security Council.

The European Council considers that, as long as the Iraqi authorities fail to comply with their obligation fully and unequivocally to observe all the provisions of resolutions 687 (1991) and 688 (1991), the Security Council should not envisage lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq. In this context, they strongly condemn the attempt by the Iraqi authorities not to reveal a part of the nuclear equipment of the country, in explicit contravention of resolution 687 (1991).

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Item 37 of the preliminary list*

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 1 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of the declaration of the European Council on South Africa, issued on 29 June 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 37 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jan de MARCHANT et d'ANSEMBOURG
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Declaration on South Africa issued on 29 June 1991 by the European Council

The European Council welcomes the important progress made towards the complete and irreversible abolition of apartheid, notably the repeal of the three remaining pillars of apartheid: the land acts, group areas act and population registration act. It hopes that these important measures will be followed by the elimination in practice of all racial discrimination and by an improvement of the position of the most disinherited elements of the South African population.

The European Council would wish to see a speeding up of the process of negotiation on the new constitution leading to the establishment of a new, united, democratic and non-racial South Africa and calls upon all parties to make common efforts to resolve all outstanding questions so as to enable negotiations between all political forces to begin as soon as possible.

The European Council notes, nevertheless, that obstacles remain on this path. It expresses the hope that a rapid solution can be found to the problem of political prisoners and to that of the return of exiles. It reiterates its concern about the violence in South Africa and calls upon the South African Government to spare no effort to uphold the law and public order. It notes with hope the consultations on this grave problem and calls upon all parties to display moderation.

The European Council, conscious of the significant influence of the role which sport might be called on to play in the emergence of a South African nation, notes with satisfaction the progress achieved in desegregation in the sporting field. It hopes that all the conditions set by the International Olympic Committee for the readmission of South Africa will be fulfilled as soon as possible. It proposes, while respecting the independence of sporting organizations, to support the principle of renewing sporting contacts at the international level on a case-by-case basis, where unified and non-racial sporting bodies have been set up.

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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Letter dated 1 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of the Declaration of the European Council on improvement of emergency assistance within the United Nations framework, issued on 29 June 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 12 and 85 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jan de MARCHANT et d'ANSEMBOURG
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Declaration on the improvement of emergency assistance within the United Nations framework, issued by the European Council on 29 June 1991

The European Council expresses its deep sympathy for the victims of catastrophes on an international scale, including the recent cyclone in Bangladesh, the crisis in the Horn of Africa and the massive exodus of Iraqi refugees from their country.

The Community and its member States have responded to these catastrophes with substantial aid programmes to assist the victims. They have a responsibility to ensure that their aid is channelled as directly and efficiently as possible. The European Council invites the member States and the Commission to pursue the implementation of their emergency aid programmes and to draw the lessons of the experience acquired in this regard. The European Council believes that in the light of experience it is essential to strengthen the coordination mechanisms for emergency actions undertaken within the United Nations.

To this end, and without prejudging other reforms of the United Nations Secretariat, the European Council recommends that appointment of a high-level coordinator for emergency humanitarian aid.

With the authority of the Secretary-General behind him and enjoying direct access to him in New York, and with the confidence of donor countries and organizations involved in emergency aid, it will be the task of the Coordinator to set up and maintain, on the political and administrative level, the links, impetus and direction needed to ensure that aid missions proceed smoothly. This strengthened coordination will be carried out in Geneva and should involve all humanitarian agencies within the United Nations system - without excluding specific links with other agencies not belonging to this system - as well as non-governmental organizations active in this field.

In particular, it would be the task of the coordinator to:

- Chair an inter-agency standing committee based in Geneva which would coordinate assistance efforts and provide a meeting point for donors and would include representatives of all humanitarian agencies, with a standing invitation to the ICRC and ICM;

- Have direct access to a future emergency fund enabling an immediate initial response to be made to international catastrophes;

- Maintain an up-to-date register of all the resources available within the United Nations framework, States and non-governmental organizations for mobilization at short notice in different emergency situations.

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CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Letter dated 1 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of the Declaration of the European Council on non-proliferation, issued on 29 June 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 59, 61 and 62 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jan de MARCHANT et d'ANSEMBOURG
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Declaration on non-proliferation and arms exports, made by the European Council on 29 June 1991

The European Council is deeply concerned at the danger arising from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction throughout the world. The recent Gulf War showed the absolute necessity of further enhancing the effectiveness of regimes of non-proliferation.

The Community and its member States support a strengthening of the regime of nuclear non-proliferation and call for all States to become parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. They look to an agreement in the near future on a convention on chemical weapons and to the strengthening of the Convention on Biological and Bacteriological Weapons.

The European Council is also alarmed by the stockpiling of conventional weapons in certain regions of the world. To prevent situations of instability recurring in entire regions as a result of such over-armament, the European Council believes that far-reaching international action is needed immediately to promote restraint and transparency in the transfers of conventional weapons and of technologies for military use, in particular towards areas of tension.

The European Council notes with satisfaction that work in progress in the organs of European political cooperation has already, by comparing national policies on arms exports, identified a number of common criteria on which these policies are based, such as:

- Respect for the international commitments of the member States of the Community, in particular the sanctions decreed by the Security Council of the United Nations and those decreed by the Community, agreements on non-proliferation and other subjects, as well as other international obligations;

- Respect of human rights in the country of final destination;

- The internal situation in the country of final destination, as a function of the existence of tensions or internal armed conflicts;

- Preservation of regional peace, security and stability;

- National security of the member States and of territories whose external relations are the responsibility of a member State, as well as that of friendly and allied countries;

- Behaviour of the buyer country with regard to the international community, as regards in particular its attitude to terrorism, the nature of its alliances, and respect for international law;

- The existence of a risk that the equipment will be diverted within the buyer country or re-exported under undesirable conditions.

In the perspective of political union, the European Council hopes that on the basis of criteria of this nature a common approach will be made possible leading to a harmonization of national policies.

The Community and its member States attach particular importance in the framework of their internal consultations and within the competent international forums to transparency in conventional arms transfers. They will attach priority to the establishment of a United Nations register on conventional arms transfers and will table a draft resolution in this sense at the next United Nations General Assembly.

The European Council calls on all States to support this initiative and others which aim to prevent the uncontrolled spread of weapons and military technologies.

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 1 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of the Declaration of the European Council on human rights, issued on 29 June 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 99 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jan de MARCHANT et d'ANSEMBOURG
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/45/50.

ANNEX

Declaration on human rights, published by the European Council on 29 June 1991

Recalling the 1986 Declaration of Foreign Ministers of the Community on human rights (21 July 1986), the European Council reaffirms that respecting, promoting and safeguarding human rights is an essential part of international relations and one of the cornerstones of European cooperation as well as of relations between the Community and its member States and other countries. In this regard the European Council stresses its attachment to the principles of parliamentary democracy and the primacy of law.

The European Council welcomes the considerable progress made in recent years in the field of human rights, and the advances in democracy in Europe and throughout the world, particularly in certain developing countries. It welcomes the growing prominence of demands of peoples for freedom and democracy throughout the world.

They deplore, however, the persistence of flagrant violations of human rights in many countries. The Community and its member States undertake to pursue their policy of promoting and safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world. This is the legitimate and permanent duty of the world community and of all States acting individually or collectively. They recall that the different ways of expressing concern about violations of rights, as well as requests designed to secure those rights, cannot be considered as interference in the internal affairs of a State and constitute an important and legitimate part of their dialogue with third countries. For their part, the Community and its member States will continue to take up violations wherever they occur.

The European Community and its member States seek universal respect for human rights. Many international instruments have been elaborated in the last decades, first among which rank the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. No specific provision based on national, cultural or religious factors can validly be invoked to detract from the principles established by these instruments. The European Council calls on all States to become a party to the international instruments in force.

In the field of human rights, the effective and universal implementation of existing instruments and the strengthening of international mechanisms of control is a priority. The Community and its member States will continue to work for the efficient functioning of such mechanisms in their administrative, organizational and financial aspects. Moreover, they undertake, in the context of these mechanisms, to push for an improvement in the transparency of procedures. The European Council is well disposed towards the possibility of enabling individuals to be involved in the protection of their rights. The European Council calls for the cooperation of States with the

intergovernmental organizations to which they belong in monitoring the implementation of human rights, in particular in the framework of the commissions created by United Nations agreements and in regional institutions.

Tensions and conflicts arising from flagrant and systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in one country or in a specific region are often a threat to international peace and security.

The protection of minorities is ensured in the first place by the effective establishment of democracy. The European Council recalls the fundamental nature of the principle of non-discrimination. It stresses the need to protect human rights whether or not the persons concerned belong to minorities. The European Council reiterates the importance of respecting the cultural identity as well as rights enjoyed by members of minorities which such persons should be able to exercise in common with other members of their group. Respect of this principle will favour political, social and economic development.

The European Council recalls the indivisible character of human rights. The promotion of economic, social and cultural rights, as of civil and political rights, and of respect for religious freedom and freedom of worship, is of fundamental importance for the full realization of human dignity and of the legitimate aspirations of every individual. Democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights, institutions working within a constitutional framework, and responsible Governments appointed following periodic, fair elections, as well as the recognition of the legitimate importance of the individual in a society, are essential prerequisites of sustained social and economic development.

The European Council deplores the fact that countless people in the world are victims of hunger, illness, illiteracy and extreme poverty and are thus deprived of the most basic economic and social rights. It notes moreover that special attention should be paid to the most vulnerable categories of people, for example, children, women, old people, migrants and refugees. The European Council believes that it is an affront to human dignity to deny help to victims in emergency situations or in extreme distress, particularly in cases of violence against innocent civilians and refugees. To the victim's need for humanitarian assistance corresponds a duty of solidarity of the States concerned and of the international community.

All lasting development should be centred on man as the bearer of human rights and beneficiary of the process of development. Violations of human rights and suppression of individual freedoms impede an individual from participating in and contributing to this process. Through their policy of cooperation and by including clauses on human rights in economic and cooperation agreements with third countries, the Community and its member States actively promote human rights and the participation, without discrimination, of all individuals or groups in the life of society, bearing in mind particularly the role of women.

The Council of Europe plays a leading role in the field of human rights with its expertise, its numerous projects in this field, training and educational activities, and programmes of cooperation with the countries of central and Eastern Europe which possess or are seeking to possess democratic institutions. Under its aegis, the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, given the binding character of its norms and the strictness and reliability of its provisions of control, is both an advanced, effective system of protection and a point of reference for other regions of the world. The European Council welcomes the readiness of the Council of Europe to put its experience at the service of the CSCE.

The Community and its member States stress the importance they attach to the human dimension of the CSCE process, to its important contribution to democratic reforms in Europe, and to its considerable influence on the development of human rights in the European space. The European Council recalls the prospects opened up by the Final Document of the Copenhagen Conference in 1990 and the commitments undertaken when the Paris Charter was adopted. The mechanism of the Conference on the human dimension reflects participating States' conviction that upholding undertakings in the human rights field is the legitimate concern of the whole international community.

Individuals and non-governmental organizations throughout the world are making valuable and courageous contributions to safeguarding and promoting human rights. The European Council pays tribute to this commitment and deplores the fact that defenders of human rights are too often the first victims of the arbitrary treatment which they denounce. It calls upon all States to enhance the attachment of their publics to the cause of human rights through educational programmes, and by allowing non-governmental organizations free access to information and free distribution of information on human rights. By drawing the attention of the public at large to Governments' failings, the non-governmental organizations contribute significantly to the protection of individuals and the promotion of human rights in general.

The European Council reiterates the commitment of the community and its member States to support and promote, in regional and international bodies, that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without which peace and lasting security cannot be established.

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ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/46/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 4 December 1990, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/52, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East", in which the Assembly, inter alia, welcomed the completion of the study undertaken by the Secretary-General (A/45/435, annex), in accordance with paragraph 8 of resolution 43/65 and contained in his report, on effective and verifiable measures which would facilitate the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East; requested all parties of the region and other parties concerned, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to submit to the Secretary-General their views and suggestions with respect to the above-mentioned study, as well as on follow-up measures which would facilitate the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East; requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution; and decided to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

2. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of the resolution, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 29 January 1991, requested all parties of the region and other parties concerned, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to submit their views and suggestions with respect to the study mentioned in paragraph 8 of resolution 43/65, as well as on follow-up measures which would facilitate the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

3. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of the resolution, the Secretary-General submits the present report on the implementation of the resolution.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

[Original: English]

[24 April 1991]

The Ministry (of Foreign Affairs) has the honour to convey Brunei Darussalam's view on this matter that it would like to urge all parties concerned to take practical and urgent steps for the setting up of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middl East. Bearing in mind the situation in the Middle East, the establishment of such a zone would help contribute towards solving the conflict. Moreover, the establishment of such a zone would be a step towards obtaining the objectives of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in general and complete disarmament.

BULGARIA

[Original: English]

[19 June 1991]

1. The Bulgarian Government welcomes the completion of the study undertaken by the Secretary-General on effective and verifiable measures which would facilitate the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

2. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria has supported the adoption of resolution 45/52. In this context, the consensus reached at the General Assembly as early as at its thirty-fifth session that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security, is worth noting. Accordingly, Bulgaria has consistently supported the implementation of the general provisions of all subsequent United Nations resolutions, based on this consensus.

3. The Bulgarian Government subscribes to the appeal addressed in resolution 45/52 to all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. Consequently, it joins the call contained in the said resolution upon all countries of the region that have not done so, pending and during the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

4. The developments throughout the world in the past few years have created an atmosphere which, to a greater extent than before, fosters a successful implementation of the efforts of a number of regional States to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in their area. In this respect, the Republic of Bulgaria fully supports recent initiatives aimed at creating better security environment in the Middle East and favourable conditions for freeing the region from all weapons of mass destruction and missiles that can deliver them, and at effectively restraining destabilizing conventional arms build-up in the region. Thus, Bulgaria is ready to contribute within the scope of its capabilities to the realization of the respective initiatives to these ends of President Bush of the United States of America and of President Mitterand of the Republic of France.

5. In this light, the Republic of Bulgaria hopes that the States in the region of the Middle East will come to an early agreement to finally establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in their region, which would duly respect the legitimate security interests of all nations in the Middle East. Reducing the risk of a nuclear conflict as a result of such a development would have a positive impact on the security of all States in the Balkans, being of immediate proximity of the Middle East, including on the national security of Bulgaria.

6. The Bulgarian Government believes that the elimination of the ideological, political and military confrontation between the military blocs, and the ongoing review of military doctrines with emphasis on reduced reliance on nuclear weapons, create more favourable conditions to implement proposals for nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions, including in the Middle East. Military strategies and the forward-based forces concept, including in Europe, are being reconsidered and modified. One of the goals pursued by such an evolution of former security principles is to find adequate interpretation of the new relationships among the European States and to decrease reliance on nuclear weapons. The establishment of a new kind of security structure and institutions in Europe that are to meet the challenges of the new time has been embarked upon. Favourable developments in Europe are expected to affect the situation in the neighbouring regions, including the Middle East.

7. The recent events in the Gulf have demonstrated that, despite the nuclear doctrines proclaimed, all nuclear States seem to act with extreme responsibility as to the possibility of using nuclear or any other kind of weapons of mass destruction in a local conflict. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria highly appreciates the determination declared by the nuclear States in the multinational forces - United States, United Kingdom and France - not to use weapons of this kind, even if the other side uses chemical or nuclear weapons. It proved to be an important factor for acquiring stability and constructive predictability in the military operations of the coalition aimed at eliminating the results of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and at restoring its territorial integrity and state sovereignty.

8. This important precedent gives reasons to hope that the undertaken reconsideration of the military doctrines would have wider geographic scope. To this effect, the Bulgarian Government would like to hope that real conditions could be created for the States concerned to receive appropriate negative security assurances on behalf of the nuclear-weapon States.

9. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria fully supports United Nations Security Council resolution 687 (1991) providing for, inter alia, immediate elimination, under the effective control of the international community, of all weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery possessed by Iraq. The implementation of all provisions set forth in this important resolution can contribute in practice to the achievement of greater understanding among the Middle East States concerned, as to the procedure necessary for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in this region.

10. The study on the nuclear-weapon-free zone completed by the United Nations provides for a number of significant follow-on measures, the implementation of which would create better conditions to confer an entirely nuclear-free status on the States in the region. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria shares the view, expressed in resolution 45/52, that a major event of underlying importance could be the accession of all States in the region to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Beyond any doubt. It would be of great help, too, if the Middle East States declare solemnly that they will refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in any

other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third party. As underlined in the above-mentioned study, that would require an adequate monitoring and control and verification of compliance system.

11. The Bulgarian Government completely shares the view set forth in the study that the reliable guaranteeing of security of all States in the region is directly related to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone. The efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region and especially of nuclear weapons and the means of their delivery correspond to the interests of all States and are of importance to the establishment of a nuclear-free zone.

12. The Republic of Bulgaria reiterates its readiness to render assistance, within the range of its possibilities, for the success of the efforts of regional States to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East that would enhance the security of all States in the region.

CHILE

[Original: Spanish]

[18 July 1991]

1. The conclusions contained in the Secretary-General's report on effective and verifiable measures which would facilitate the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East (A/45/435) are very useful, particularly those concerning the development of confidence-building measures and agreements on negative and positive security assurances. In addition, the recent disarmament talks in Paris on 8 and 9 July 1991 and the London economic summit meeting of 15 to 18 July 1991 provide an initial indication of the fundamental role which the major Powers can play in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

2. Also of special importance for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region are the precise definition of the geographic extent of the zone, verification mechanisms and means of ensuring that the restrictions imposed do not hinder peaceful nuclear development in the States concerned.

CHINA

[Original: Chinese]

[23 May 1991]

1. China always respects and supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones by the countries concerned according to the actual conditions of their regions and on the basis of consultations and voluntary

agreement, and believes that the nuclear-weapon States should respect these countries' demands and propositions, respect the status of nuclear-weapon-free zones and undertake corresponding responsibilities. Proceeding from this position, China has signed and ratified the relevant protocols of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Treaty on the Establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in South Pacific, and has taken corresponding responsibilities.

2. China respects and supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in South Asia and in the region of the Middle East by countries of these regions in the light of their actual regional conditions and through voluntary consultations. China declared from the very first day when it came into possession of nuclear weapons that it would not be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances. China has also undertaken not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and nuclear-weapon-free zones. These commitments of China's are applicable to South Asia and the Middle East as well.

3. China believes that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in South Asia and in the region of the Middle East will be facilitated if all the nuclear-weapon States can adopt the following measures:

(1) To declare that they will respect the status of nuclear-weapon-free zones and undertake corresponding obligations.

(2) To undertake neither to be the first to use nuclear weapons nor to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and nuclear-weapon-free zones.

(3) To withdraw all their nuclear weapons back to their own territories by the nuclear-weapon States that have deployed these weapons abroad.

EGYPT

[Original: English]

[29 April 1991]

1. The Middle East regrettably has long been a region fraught with tension and a theatre for recurrent armed conflict because of the political discord that has prevailed throughout its long history. The situation in the region has become even more precarious in recent years with the introduction of nuclear-weapon capability and other weapons of mass destruction.

2. Peace, security and stability in the region will only be feasible when the political problems there have been resolved, and justice for all peoples of the regions supreme. One of the concerns that must be addressed before the peoples of the region can truly live in peace and security is the ominous threat posed by the introduction of nuclear-weapons capability.

3. Efforts aimed at redressing the threats posed by the nuclear dimension of the arms race would, without a doubt, be facilitated by the resolution of the political problems in the region and vice versa. However, in light of the volatile situation the world community cannot afford to await the successful conclusion of either before addressing the other. Consequently, while unwavering in her endeavours aimed at resolving the region's political problems, Egypt has consistently called for the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East. In pursuing each of these objectives she has always been keenly aware of the unique nature and characteristics of the region.

4. The Secretary-General in his introduction to the study on effective and verifiable measures which would facilitate the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East (A/45/435 of 10 October 1990) highlighted these crucial points: he emphasized that the volatile nature of the Middle East "make any effort to establish such a zone extremely difficult, but at the same time and for the same reasons, also an urgent and most desirable objective". He went on to say "... it is quite obvious that each zone, actual or potential, has its own characteristics, which, despite the basic common denominators they enjoy make each one a unique undertaking".

5. Both of these themes were recurrent throughout the study and should be kept in mind by all concerned. Simply put the situation in the Middle East does not provide for the luxury of time. The ominous implications posed by the introduction of a nuclear dimension into the turmoil of the region must be addressed promptly. Furthermore, efforts made in this regard must scrupulously take into account the prevailing circumstances in the region, particularly in the nuclear field, as well as the political situation which governs and sets the parameters for the process through which the establishment of nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East can be pursued.

6. Of paramount importance as well is another point made by the Secretary-General in the conclusions of the study that "the nuclear threat can be effectively and permanently eliminated only as a pattern of sound regional security relationships is developed based on unequivocal, unambiguous, legally-binding arrangements amongst which must be an equal commitment by all States of the nuclear-weapon option". Egypt would like to strongly reaffirm that equal legally-binding commitments by all States of the region to relinquish the nuclear weapon option are prerequisites sine qua non for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

7. There should be no illusion that an asymmetry in nuclear-weapon capabilities in the region, or in the commitments made by States to relinquish the nuclear-weapon option can be part of any nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region. In paragraph 108 of his study, the Secretary-General quite appropriately states: "The present asymmetrical situation is not stable. There are psychological and political pressures to 'level up' if Israel refuses to 'level down'". In paragraph 105 he had already stated that "Israel should be persuaded to renounce its presumed nuclear capabilities at the earliest possible stage".

8. Egypt cannot over-emphasize the importance of this point, one which she has reiterated over the years in calling upon Israel to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, an eventuality which was described in the study as "a most significant milestone". Further measures will also be necessary to ascertain that no secret, undeclared nuclear stockpile remained in Israel's possession.

9. In this context, and with these three points vividly in mind, Egypt studied with great interest the proposals made in Chapter IV, the conclusions, as well as the annex to the study. She shares the view expressed in paragraph 179 that it is especially important that confidence-building measures be developed in the nuclear field. The suggestions regarding the transparency of nuclear programmes - past, present and future - through declarations made by States of the region, as well as extra-regional States which have participated in the developments of such programmes, would be useful in developing the necessary confidence in the present status and peaceful nature of such programmes. Full disclosure and accountability of the nuclear programmes in the region is of fundamental importance.

10. Naturally, unilateral declarations, while useful shall not suffice. As has been endorsed by the General Assembly in its definition of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, resolution 3472 B (XXX) of 11 December 1975, verification and control procedures should "guarantee compliance with obligations or commitments made throughout the different stages of establishing the nuclear-weapon-free zones".

11. The International Atomic Energy Agency should play a useful role in verifying the veracity of the different declarations made prior to the establishment of the zone, regarding the nuclear activities in the region through agreements reached with the concerned parties on an individual basis. The full scope safeguard system now being implemented should be extended to cover all nuclear facilities in the Middle East as a confidence-building measure to facilitate the establishment of the zone. The IAEA should also serve as the kernel for the verification system to be implemented after the establishment of the zone, to be complemented by whatever additional measures are agreed upon by the concerned States.

12. Egypt is also of the view that the establishment of such a zone should entail both negative as well as positive assurances by extra-regional States not to attack the States of the region with nuclear weapons, and to provide assistance to such States if an attack occurs. She believes that Security Council resolution 255 (1968) should be the subject of immediate consultations and among the permanent members of the Security Council as well as others in order to supplement it as suggested during the Fourth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

13. As follow-up measure to the present study and without prejudice to the negotiating process it would be useful if the Secretary-General address a questionnaire to the States of the region, members of the Arab League, Israel and the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the annex to the study to ascertain their rules regarding the principal elements of a zonal arrangement especially:

(a) Its geographical extent;

(b) The list of its basic prohibitions;

(c) The verification of compliance with those prohibitions;

(d) The commitments towards the zone to be made by States outside the region;

(e) The duration of the relevant arrangement;

(f) Provisions regarding adjacent areas;

(g) Relationships to other similar zones;

(h) Relationships to other international agreements;

(i) The various technical clauses such as verification and withdrawal provisions.

14. The United Nations in recent years has once again reasserted its crucial and fundamental role in addressing global and regional problems. Its contributions towards peace-keeping and peace-making in the Middle East have been invaluable and this worthy Organization must continue to play a central role in the region, inter alia, in the disarmament field. The full potential of the Secretary-General's good offices should be utilized to facilitate the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

15. The success of our efforts to eliminate the threats emanating from the introduction of nuclear-weapon capability into the region undisputedly would augur well for other disarmament measures. Concrete steps leading to a symmetry in the nuclear-weapon capabilities through a levelling-down process, and in the obligations taken by States of the region to relinquish nuclear weapons would be instrumental in facilitating other disarmament measures, particularly regarding weapons of mass destruction. Egypt's desire and commitment to address all of these issues in a manner which would safeguard the security of all the States of the region is evident in the proposal made by President Hosni Mubarak on 8 April 1990 to declare the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction.

16. In conclusion, it is worthy to reiterate, as lucidly stated in the final paragraph of the conclusion of the study, "The presence of nuclear weapons throughout the Middle East is in no sense inevitable ... . They (nuclear weapons) were invented by human beings and, even though humans cannot 'uninvent' them, they can freely decide not to make them. But this decision not to make them will have to be affirmed and reaffirmed again and again by the Governments and peoples of the region. A nuclear-weapon-free zone can be the effective framework within which that decision is formulated, carried out, and sustained." All States of the region as well as those beyond should make an active contribution towards the fulfilment of these objectives.

OMAN

[Original: Arabic]

[15 March 1991]

1. Oman expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General for his progress report containing the views of various concerned parties in the region with regard to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, as well as for the information to the effect that he has appointed a number of consultant experts to assist him in undertaking a study on effective and verifiable measures that would facilitate the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, taking into account the circumstances and characteristics of the region, as well as the views and suggestions of parties in the region, in accordance with paragraph 8 of the resolution. It also looks forward to the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the General Assembly resolution and, in particular, to the views and recommendations of the consultant experts appointed by him.

2. In this regard, the Government of Oman wishes to draw the Secretary-General's attention to its reply in connection with General Assembly resolution 42/28 of 30 November 1987 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, as included in the report of the Secretary-General (A/43/484) dated 27 July 1988.

3. In accordance with that reply, Oman believes that the unanimous adoption by the Secretary-General of resolution 43/65 of 7 December 1988 reflects the determination of the international community to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East region and that, in order for this unanimous vote to constitute a genuine and true expression of the views of the international community, all States - and particularly the States concerned - must proceed to take the following steps:

(1) All parties directly concerned should take the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. The countries concerned, meaning those engaged in nuclear programmes and activities, should, as a means of promoting this objective, adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

(2) Those countries of the region - and particularly those engaged in nuclear programmes and activities - which have not yet done so should, pending the establishment of the zone, declare their readiness to place all their nuclear activities and facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

(3) The countries of the region - and particularly those engaged in nuclear programmes and activities - should declare their unequivocal support for establishing such a zone, consistent with paragraph 63 (d) of the Final

Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and deposit those declarations with the Security Council.

(4) The countries of the region - and particularly those engaged in nuclear programmes and activities - should not develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or import or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices.

(5) The nuclear-weapon States and all other States should render their assistance in the establishment of the zone and at the same time refrain from any action that runs counter to both the letter and the spirit of General Assembly resolution 43/65, which was adopted unanimously.

SWEDEN

[Original: English]

[18 June 1991]

1. The Government of Sweden welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East (A/45/435) as a valuable contribution to the process of establishing such a zone.

2. While establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone must be based upon "arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned", outside States, both nuclear-weapon States, neighbouring States, and other States, may be able to play a promoting and supporting role in a process leading to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone and to the implementation of the zone agreement once in force. For the Middle East case this point is amply elaborated in chapter IV.D of the report.

3. It should be noted, however, that the mandate for the study was limited to the nuclear field, but that the scope of a zone project could be extended to include regulations for other categories of weapons of mass destruction as well. In fact, the concept of weapons of mass destruction may, in an area where some States are geographically small, refer to any weapon or weapon system that can kill indiscriminately a large part of the civilian population of a State. Therefore, the initiative of President Mubarak (A/45/219-S/21252, annex) calling for a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction is particularly relevant in the Middle East.

4. Such a zone of wider scope is also referred to in the preamble and paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991). Paragraph 9 of that resolution charges the Secretary-General with forming a Special Commission for the destruction of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. It is an enormous and unique task with a strict time-table to be adhered to.

5. The Swedish Government had the honour to assign Ambassador Rolf Ekéus as Chairman of the Special Commission. The task which the Commission has

undertaken is daunting. Its successful outcome should, however, be an important contribution to regional security in the Middle East.

6. The report of the Secretary-General indicates the possibility that the International Atomic Energy Agency could have a wider role for verification and control under an agreement on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East than the Agency has under the Tlatelolco and Rarotonga Treaties. It seems that the adoption of such a wider role for the Agency would not require any amendment of its statute. It would require, however, the development of rules and procedures for and of a basis for the financing of the execution of such a wider role.

7. Preparation for such a new and extended role should start immediately, the more so as a similarly extended tasks for IAEA is foreseen in Security Council resolution 687 (1991) paragraphs 12 and 13. States members of IAEA should take immediate steps to support such preparations.

8. The Government of Sweden considers most important the recommendations, outlined in paragraphs 149 and 150 of the report, on transparency in relation to cooperation in the nuclear, chemical and missile fields that outside States are engaged in with States in the Middle East. Such transparency should be applied by all States and cover all relevant transactions whether future, current or past.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

[Original: Arabic]

[5 April 1991]

1. [As stated previously (see A/44/430/Add.1)] the Syrian Arab Republic has consistently endorsed the principle of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in the world and treated it as an important means of serving the purposes of disarmament in general, and of reducing tension and promoting international peace and security in particular.

2. In light of its support for this principle, it endorsed resolution 45/52, concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, with a view to sparing this and other regions from the danger of nuclear destruction. It joined in the consensus on this subject because the resolution affirms the following ideas:

(a) The need for all parties directly concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

(b) The need for the parties concerned to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

(c) The need for all parties concerned to refrain from developing, producing, testing or otherwise acquiring nuclear weapons or permitting the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices.

3. The Syrian Arab Republic interprets the contents of resolution 45/52 concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in this manner and is striving by every means to implement the contents of the resolution on this basis.

4. It is Israel which is impeding the implementation of the resolution and categorically rejecting the unanimous wishes of the international community, by means of the following policies:

(a) Israel's constant refusal to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

(b) Its constant refusal to comply with Security Council resolution 487 (1981), which calls upon Israel urgently to place its nuclear facilities under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and continued disregard for those safeguards;

(c) Its refusal to accept the idea of giving up possession of nuclear weapons, despite the repeated calls addressed to it by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

5. The Syrian Arab Republic believes that, if the Secretary-General is to ensure that the resolution is implemented, then it is entirely clear that he must persuade Israel to comply with the wishes of the international community, to implement the community's resolutions and to forsake its nuclear ambitions.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Items 68, 94, 99 and 137 of the
preliminary list*
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS
DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 7 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the Declaration of the Government of of the Republic of Albania, dated 6 July 1991, on the recent events in Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 68, 94, 99 and 137 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Genc MLLOJA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Declaration of the Government of the Republic of Albania, issued at Tirana on 6 July 1991

The recent events in Yugoslavia: Slovenia's and Croatia's decision to declare the independence and later the violent intervention of the Federal army forces against this decision, make evident the importance and direction Yugoslavia will adopt to come out of the crossroad it is in for a long time now. Actually, the country is on the verge of a civil war. The crisis that has reached its climax constitutes a major distressing problem not only for Yugoslavia, but also for the entire Europe and the Balkans in particular. For the Albanian people and Government, for Albania as a Balkan country and Yugoslavia's neighbour, this concern is assuming special proportions and importance, taking into consideration the fact that about 3 million Albanians, our compatriots - hence half of the Albanian nation - is actually living in Yugoslavia. After 10 years of severe repression and incessant restriction of the national rights, actually Kosova is militarily occupied by Serbia.

The more so, the Serb population is being armed, paramilitary bands are making provocations at any moments looking for pretexts to escalate the genocide against the Albanians. Bloodshed the Serb chauvinist forces are preparing in Kosova threatens stability and peace in the Balkans and Europe. It runs counter to the democratic tendencies of the Continent, already institutionalized in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). These ominous schemes aim at bringing back the dark times of the beginning of the century in the Balkans and at rekindling a new hearth of conflict in the middle of the Europe. This stand exercised by Serbia is totally different from the civilized stand, exercised through democratic and peaceful ways by the Albanian population of Kosova since 1981 and on.

Such plans are unacceptable for a Europe which marches towards peace, security and cooperation on a continental scale. They are the more so for the Albanian people and Government.

Naturally, it is the right of the peoples of Yugoslavia to decide themselves on the fate and future of their State. But in order for this future to be defined according to the processes of European security and the interests of its peoples, no decision on this future can ignore the will of the Albanian population in Yugoslavia. When referring to Kosova and the Albanians in Yugoslavia, it is not the word for a minority, it is the elementary right of 3 million Albanians tragically divided from the other part of the nation, that in the context of a new possible reorganization of the Yugoslav State, to be a constituent autonomous part of it, up to the form of the republic. This can be achieved only through a democratic way, through pluralistic elections, as an expression of the undeniable right of self-determination, sanctioned by the Acts of Helsinki and the United Nations and accepted by Yugoslavia.

/...

The Albanian people and Government have full reason to insist on and make their contribution to a peaceful solution of the Yugoslav crisis in general and the question of the Albanians in particular, excluding the use of violence and military conflicts. This stand stems from the principles where the present European security and the historic process of the construction of a new Europe, which engages every country for the observation of the freedom of nations and individuals, is based upon.

The Government of the Republic of Albania appeals once more for wisdom and dialogue with the Albanians, for a political solution of the problem according to the United Nations Charter and the Helsinki documents. It addresses to the CSCE member States and Governments and to the entire international community, that in the context of their commitment and efforts for the solution of the Yugoslav crisis, not to disregard from this interest the question of the Albanians living in Yugoslavia, as one of the sharpest aspects of the Yugoslav crisis.

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Forty-sixth session
Item 79 of the preliminary list*

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 1 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to forward to you a copy of the Beijing Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development adopted by the Ministers from 41 developing countries at the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development on 19 June 1991 in Beijing (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could arrange for this letter and the attached Declaration to be issued as an official document of the General Assembly under item 79 of the preliminary list, and of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992.

(Signed) JIN Yongjian
Acting Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

* A/46/50.

Annex

BEIJING MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

(Adopted on 19 June 1991)

We, the Ministers from forty-one developing countries,* met in Beijing, at the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China, from 18 to 19 June 1991, at the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, and having discussed in depth the challenges faced by the international community in establishing norms of cooperation for the enhancement of environment and development, particularly the implications for the developing countries, declare as follows:

1. We are deeply concerned about the accelerating degradation of the global environment. This is largely on account of unsustainable development models and life styles. As a result, the basic elements indispensable for human life - land, water and atmosphere, - are gravely threatened. The more serious and widespread environmental problems are air pollution, climate change, ozone layer depletion, drying up of fresh water resources, pollution of rivers, lakes and the marine environment including the coastal zones, marine and coastal resources deterioration, floods and droughts, soil loss, land degradation, desertification, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, acid rain, proliferation and mismanagement of toxic products, illegal traffic of toxic and dangerous products and wastes, growth of urban agglomeration, deterioration of living and working conditions in urban and rural areas, especially of sanitation, resulting in epidemics, and other such problems. Furthermore, poverty in the developing countries is becoming aggravated, hampering the efforts to meet the legitimate needs and aspirations of their people and exerting greater pressures on the environment.

2. We affirm that environmental protection and sustainable development is a matter of common concern to humankind, which requires effective actions by the international community and provides an opportunity for global cooperation. Against this background and out of a strong concern for the present and future generations, we hereby reaffirm our solemn commitment to participating actively, on the basis of differentiated responsibilities and to the best of our ability, in the global efforts for environmental protection and sustainable development, keeping in view the general principles and broad approach set out below.

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* For the list of developing countries attending the Conference, see the appendix.

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

3. Changes in the environment are closely related to economic and social activities. Environmental problems must not be viewed in isolation, and need to be addressed together with the process of development, by integrating environmental concerns with the imperatives of economic growth and development. In this connection, the right to development of the developing countries must be fully recognized, and the adoption of measures for the protection of the global environment should support their economic growth and development. In particular, the international community must actively support the efforts of developing countries to strengthen their institutional and technical capacities.

4. The special situation and needs of the developing countries should be fully taken into account. Each country must be enabled to determine the pace of transition, based on the adaptive capacity of its economic, social and cultural ethos and capabilities. The environmental problems of developing countries arise from the conditions of poverty. The development process initiated by these countries utilizing the old polluting technologies provided by the developed countries also contributes to the degradation of the environment, which in turn, undermines the development process itself. This adversely affects not only the developing countries but also the entire world. Sustainable development and steady economic growth constitute a way to break this cycle of poverty and environmental degradation and to strengthen the capabilities of the developing countries for environmental protection. The least developed countries, disaster-prone developing countries as well as island and low-lying developing countries should be given special attention by the world community.

5. The inequities in current international economic relations confronting the developing countries, especially with regard to debt, financing, trade and transfer of technology, have led to serious consequences for them, including the reverse flow of financial resources, brain drain and backwardness in their scientific and technological capabilities. The economic development of the developing countries has thus been constrained and their capability to participate effectively in global environmental efforts undermined. It is therefore imperative to establish a new and equitable international economic order conducive to the sustained and sustainable development of all countries, particularly the developing countries, thereby creating the conditions necessary for global cooperation to protect the environment. Countries should be able to determine their own environment and development policies, without any barriers or discrimination on trade against them.

6. International cooperation in the field of environmental protection should be based on the principle of equality among sovereign States. The developing countries have the sovereign right to use their own natural resources in keeping with their developmental and environmental objectives and priorities. Furthermore environmental considerations should not be used as an excuse for interference in the internal affairs of the developing countries, nor should

these be used to introduce any forms of conditionality in aid or development financing, or to impose trade barriers affecting the export and development efforts of the developing countries.

7. While the protection of the environment is in the common interests of the international community, the developed countries bear the main responsibility for the degradation of the global environment. Ever since the Industrial Revolution, the developed countries have over-exploited the world's natural resources through unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, causing damage to the global environment, to the detriment of the developing countries.

8. The developed countries, in view of their main responsibility for environmental degradation and their greater financial and technological capabilities, must take the lead in eliminating the damage to the environment as well as in assisting the developing countries to deal with the problems facing them.

9. The developing countries need adequate, new and additional financial resources to be able to address effectively the environmental and developmental problems confronting them. There should be preferential and non-commercial transfer of environmentally sound technologies to the developing countries.

10. On their part, the developing countries will contribute to the process of environmental protection and enhancement by, inter alia, stepping up technical cooperation and transfer of technology among themselves.

II. SECTORAL ISSUES

11. Land degradation, desertification, floods and droughts, worsening quality and supply of fresh water resources, soil loss, marine and coastal resources deterioration, deforestation and vegetation degradation are among the serious environmental problems confronting the developing countries. These constitute a major part of the problem of global environmental degradation, to which priority should be accorded. These problems have been discussed in international fora, and some plans of action have been proposed or approved. However, no effective actions have been taken so far by the international community towards their implementation. We urge the international community to immediately initiate actions in this regard, particularly by establishing an international funding mechanism for this purpose.

12. We are gravely concerned with the continuous increase in the greenhouse gases leading to climate change and its likely implications for the global ecological system, especially the threat that they pose to the developing countries, and to the island and low-lying developing countries in particular. Responsibility for the emission of greenhouse gases should be viewed both in historical and cumulative terms, and in terms of current emissions. On the basis of the principle of equity, those developed countries

which have contaminated more must contribute more. Developed countries should therefore commit themselves to adopting measures to halt human-induced climate change and to setting up mechanisms to guarantee the environmental security and development of the developing countries, including the transfer to the developing countries, on preferential and non-commercial terms, of technologies for this purpose.

13. The framework convention on climate change currently being negotiated should clearly recognize that it is the developed countries which are mainly responsible for excessive emissions of greenhouse gases, historically and currently, and it is these developed countries which must take immediate action to stabilize and reduce such emissions. Developing countries cannot be expected to accept any obligations in the near future. However, they should be encouraged through technical and financial cooperation to undertake measures within their plans, priorities and programmes which contribute both to their economic development and to the efforts to tackle the problem of climate change, without prejudicing their growing energy needs. The framework convention must include, inter alia, firm commitments by developed countries towards the transfer of technology to developing countries, the establishment of a separate funding mechanism, and the development of the economically viable new and renewable energy sources as well as sustainable agricultural practices, which constitutes an important step to deal with the major cause of climate change. In addition, the developing countries must be provided with the full scientific, technical and financial cooperation necessary to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change.

14. We further agree that the purpose and principles of the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, as amended in June 1990, are positive in nature. The implementation by the developing countries of the obligations under the amended Protocol is subject to the effective implementation by the States parties to the Protocol of the arrangements for the provision of financial resources and transfer of technology to the developing countries. We urge the developed countries to commit themselves to the long-term arrangements for providing adequate financial resources and the expeditious transfer of technology as required of them under the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, as amended in June 1990.

15. We are concerned at the accelerating loss of biodiversity. Most living organisms and their habitats in the world belong to the developing countries and they have borne the cost of conserving them over the ages. Such efforts should be recognized and supported by the international community and in international conventions and subsequent protocols. Each State has sovereignty over its biological resources, thus conservation measures should be compatible with its national plans and priorities. The international legal instrument on biodiversity now being negotiated must clearly recognize, inter alia, the linkage between access to genetic material and transfer of biotechnology, research development in the country of origin, sharing of the fruits of scientific research and the commercial profits. Issues of intellectual property rights must be satisfactorily resolved so that they do

not become an obstacle to the transfer of technology, including biotechnology. Furthermore, the international legal instrument must recognize and reward the innovative work done by rural population, largely in developing countries, in protecting and utilizing biodiversity.

16. We note that though control and management of hazardous wastes and toxic substances require international cooperation, the Basel Convention adopted two years ago has not entered into force. We therefore urge those States which have not ratified the Convention to consider the possibility of becoming parties to it. We urge all States to take steps to provide for a liability and compensation regime; mechanisms for transfer of low-waste technologies to the developing countries; development of capabilities for identification, analysis and disposal of wastes and mechanisms for adopting a world-wide ban on export of hazardous wastes to developing countries which do not have such capabilities. Likewise, we are concerned with the continuous illegal traffic of toxic and dangerous products and wastes, particularly from developed to developing countries. We urge the developed countries to take appropriate measures to halt such traffic.

17. Multilateral measures to protect forests and promote their sustainable management, including the proposal for a global consensus on forestry, should be aimed at enhancing the economic, social and environmental potentials of forests. Management plans should integrate living resource conservation and development priorities and goals, taking into account the needs of the local communities, including their habitats. In this respect, efforts, including specific projects of developing countries to promote the utilization of the tropical forests on a sustainable basis, should be recognized and supported. It should take the form of financial and technical assistance, as well as ensuring better market access for higher value-added timber products. It is equally important to ensure financial cooperation by the world community for forest conservation and development. Towards this end, the international community should, among other things, make efforts towards the greening of the world and countries which had in the past so destroyed their extensive forests should increase their forest cover through reforestation and afforestation programmes.

18. We are deeply concerned about the spread of desertification process and continuity of prolonged drought cycles, which have been recognized by the international community as major environmental problems. Hence there is an urgent need to accord high priority to these problems and to take all necessary measures including the provision of appropriate financial, scientific and technical resources in order to stop and reverse the process of desertification and drought, with the aim of contributing to the preservation of the global ecological balance.

19. The marine and coastal resources deterioration resulting from irrational exploitation and pollution, mostly by developed countries, constitutes a serious development constraint for those countries that depend on them. It is necessary to enlarge cooperation on the protection and use of regional seas and to improve their rational utilization based on better knowledge and

information. Discharge of toxic and nuclear wastes at seas and oceans must be banned, and that of other wastes should be strictly regulated.

20. In the densely populated cities of developing countries, insufficiency of resources causes inefficiency of the basic public services, high marginality, and degradation of the urban environment. Urban planning, including mechanisms for financing sustainable development, must contribute to enhancing the quality of life in the urban and rural settlements. In this context, the new mechanisms for financing sustainable development should give priority to these problems.

III. CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES

21. The key to the success of the global efforts for the protection of the environment is the broadest possible participation of the international community; this depends to a large extent on whether substantial progress can be made on cross-sectoral issues, including in particular, the availability of adequate, new and additional financial resources and transfer of technology on preferential and non-commercial terms to the developing countries.

22. With regard to global environmental issues, every international legal instrument should include provisions for adequate, new and additional funds, which should lay down in explicit terms the commitments of the developed countries in this regard. A key factor is the adequacy of financial resources, which should be sufficient for the developing countries to cover the incremental costs involved in addressing the issues and in implementing their relevant commitments derived from international legal instruments. Contribution by the developed countries should be sufficient to cover the costs not only of prevention but also of mitigating the cumulative effects of past actions. Developing countries could also contribute, on a voluntary basis, to the funds.

23. In order to deal with the long-existing but now rapidly aggravating environmental problems of immediate concern to the developing countries, a special Green Fund should be established to provide adequate and additional financial assistance to them. This Fund should be used to address problems which are not covered by specific international agreements, such as water pollution, coastal pollution affecting mangrove forest, shortages and degradation of fresh water resources, deforestation, soil loss, land degradation and desertification. It should also cover the costs of the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the costs of building up national capabilities for environmental protection and for scientific and technological research. This Fund should be managed on the basis of equitable representation from developing and developed countries, and should ensure easy access for developing countries.

24. We emphasize the important role of science and technology in protecting the global environment, and reaffirm that measures need to be taken to ensure the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to the developing countries

on preferential, most favourable, concessional and non-commercial terms. The transfer of these technologies to the developing countries should be regarded as a contribution to the common interests of humankind. The developed countries should promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, through procedures and arrangements including incentives and disincentives to the private sector.

IV. THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

25. In accordance with the United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/228, we emphasize that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 should not only discuss the global environmental issues such as climate change and ozone layer depletion and the related response strategies. It should also be a forum to address other global issues confronting the developing countries, particularly those development issues related to environment. The relevant agreements reached at the Conference must provide guidance to international deliberations on trade, finance, technology and other similar issues. The interlinkages, where relevant, should be incorporated in each.

26. We believe that the proposed Earth Charter and agenda 21 resulting from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development should be compatible with the principles embodied in relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. Furthermore, they must reflect the outcomes of the conferences of developing countries with regard to the inter-relationship between environment and development, and the special situation and the needs of the developing countries. The agenda should be action-oriented to solve the environmental problems and meet the needs of the developing countries with the aim of integrating environmental concerns with development.

27. We also believe that poverty is at the root of the environmental problems of the developing world. The Conference could provide new strength and momentum to the proposed launching of a huge world programmme against poverty and its effects on world environment.

V. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

28. We agree that the environment-related efforts at various international fora, particularly in the preparatory process for the 1992 Conference, will have direct and far-reaching implications for the developing countries. We emphasize that it is a pressing task for us developing countries to intensify consultations and coordination among ourselves in an effort to present our positions at international fora more effectively so as to safeguard better the interests of the developing countries as a whole.

29. We decide to strengthen further consultations and coordination among developing countries in the preparatory process for the 1992 Conference and at other international fora, along the lines of the New Delhi Conference in 1990 and the Beijing Conference.

30. We believe that measures should be taken to explore the ways and means and modalities for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in the sphere of environment and development. In this regard, developing countries will also endeavour to set appropriate environmental goals for attaining better quality of life and environmental well-being, while at the same time identify and assess the financial and technological needs for achieving such goals.

31. We support the retaining and strengthening of the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme and all its programme activity centres in Nairobi, considering the success the Programme has achieved to date from this venue and the need to have it better equipped for carrying out its work.

32. We re-emphasize that we intend to participate fully in the global effort to protect the environment without hindering the development process and that this can be achieved if the right climate is created for global cooperation by a positive, constructive and practical response on the part of the developed countries, so that we can jointly promote the well-being of the present and future generations.

* * *

APPENDIX

List of participating countries

Algeria
Argentina
Bangladesh
Brazil
Cameroon
Chile
China
Colombia
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Egypt
Ethiopia
Fiji
Ghana
Guyana
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Jordan
Kenya
Malaysia
Mali
Mexico
Morocco
Nepal
Niger
Nigeria
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Singapore
Sudan
Thailand
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Venezuela
Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zimbabwe

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RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 9 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the letter of President Ramiz Alia addressed to the Heads of States permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the Chairman of the European Community Commission dated 8 July 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 68, 94, 99 and 137 of the preliminary list of items of the forty-sixth session.

(Signed) Genc MLLOJA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Letter of President Ramiz Alia addressed to the Heads of States permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Chairman of the European Community Commission

The Republic of Albania and the Albanian people follow with attention and great worry the development of the situation in Yugoslavia. They fully share in the efforts the European States and the big Powers are making to attain a peaceful and democratic solution to the crisis in Yugoslavia. We have officially declared and reaffirm once again our objection to any resort to force and the conviction that this can never be a means of solving the Yugoslav crisis. At the same time, we support any effort for dialogue among all the parties, without exception, regarding the future of Yugoslavia, the right to self-determination, the observance of human rights, relying on the principles embodied in the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter for a new Europe, other documents of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Charter of the United Nations.

For Albania, as a neighbour of Yugoslavia, this worry assumes ever greater proportions bearing in mind that half of the Albanian nation lives within the actual borders of the Yugoslav Federation. Actually, a great worry about Slovenia and Croatia, for their future is rightfully created. But no one can conceal the fact that a great problem of the Albanians exists in Yugoslavia. It has an historical past, it has a present and, without discussion, a future which is closely related to the way the new Yugoslavia will be contoured. It is common knowledge, especially after 1981, that the Albanian population in Yugoslavia has been under a savage national oppression and a flagrant violation of human rights. The Albanians in Yugoslavia are deprived of all the national rights and Kosova, in which most of the ethnic Albanians live, is turned from a constitutive subject of Yugoslavia into a province occupied by Serbia. All the data exist that, exploiting the current Yugoslav crisis, Serbia is preparing a new bloodshed against the Albanians.

Besides the army present in Kosova since 10 years ago, it is arming the civil bands and ultrachauvinistic elements, which are provoking the unarmed and peaceful Albanian population, seeking pretexts to escalate genocide against them.

Pointing to this grave situation Albania not only voices its legitimate worry over the fate of the half of its own nation, but wishes to draw attention to the very real danger a conflict between the Serbs and the Albanians in Yugoslavia constitutes for the peace and stability in the Balkans and in Europe. The new massacre prepared in Kosova, as for its effects, cannot remain a localized question. It would be of unforeseen consequences for all the Balkan and broader.

In face of this reality, the Republic of Albania cannot keep silent. We deem it necessary to point to the importance of the serious commitment at this moment by the CSCE member countries, European Community, the big Powers and the whole international community to prevent this dangerous conflict which threatens peace and security on an international scale.

Expressing my esteem consideration, I am convinced, that Your Excellency will devote the due attention to this important problem.

TIRANA, 8 July 1991

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/295
S/22777
10 July 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Item 20 of the preliminary list*
ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Application of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for admission to membership in the United Nations

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 135 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and rule 59 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to circulate herewith the application of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for admission to membership in the United Nations, contained in a letter dated 2 July 1991 from the Vice-Premier of the Administration Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Secretary-General.

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* A/46/50.

Letter dated 2 July 1991 from the Vice-Premier of the Administration Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I have the honour to inform you that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea hereby makes application for membership in the United Nations, in accordance with Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations.

I attach a declaration made in pursuance of rule 58 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council.

I would be grateful if this application could be submitted to the Security Council.

(Signed) KIM Yong Nam
Vice-Premier of the Administration Council
and
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Declaration

On behalf of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I solemnly declare that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea accepts the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations and undertakes to fulfil them.

(Signed) KIM Yong Nam
Vice-Premier of the Administration Council
and
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Democratic People's Republic of Korea

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/296
S/22778
5 August 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Item 20 of the provisional agenda*
ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Application of the Republic of Korea for admission to membership in the United Nations

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 135 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and rule 59 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to circulate herewith the application of the Republic of Korea for admission to membership in the United Nations, contained in a letter dated 19 July 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea to the Secretary-General.

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* A/46/150.

Letter dated 19 July 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Korea herewith applies for membership in the United Nations, in accordance with Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations.

I have further the honour to attach herewith a declaration made in accordance with rule 58 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would place this application before the Security Council at the earliest opportunity.

(Signed) LEE Sang Ock
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Korea

Declaration

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, I, Roh Tae Woo, in my capacity as Head of State, have the honour to solemnly declare that the Republic of Korea accepts the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations and undertakes to fulfil them.

(Signed) ROH Tae Woo
President of the Republic
of Korea

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/296*
S/22778*
7 August 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Item 20 of the provisional agenda**
ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Application of the Republic of Korea for admission to membership in the United Nations

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 135 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and rule 59 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to circulate herewith the application of the Republic of Korea for admission to membership in the United Nations, contained in a letter dated 19 July 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea to the Secretary-General.

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

** A/46/150.

Letter dated 19 July 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Korea herewith applies for membership of the Republic of Korea in the United Nations.

I have further the honour to attach herewith a declaration made in accordance with rule 58 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would place this application before the Security Council at the earliest opportunity.

(Signed) LEE Sang Ock
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Korea

Declaration

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, I, Roh Tae Woo, in my capacity as Head of State, have the honour to solemnly declare that the Republic of Korea accepts the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations and undertakes to fulfil them.

(Signed) ROH Tae Woo
President of the Republic
of Korea